

THE TIMES

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Strong doubts cast on exam results studies

by Biddy Passmore

A leading statistician has published research which casts doubt on the value of most major comparative studies of exam results of recent years. In a paper presented to the Royal Statistical Society, Professor Murray Aitkin and Nick Longford of the Department of Applied Statistics at Lancaster University, said any worthwhile study of school effectiveness must take account of each child's background, including ability on entry to the school, as well as the effect of the particular school on the child's performance.

Unless allowance was made for both these factors, the results were virtually meaningless.

The paper was especially critical of the statistical model used by the *Standards in English Schools*, since they had no data on individual pupils and simply aggregated results up to school level.

But it also said the statistical models used by Professor Neville Bonnett in his 1976 study of teaching styles and by Jane Smeedman in her 1983 report based on data from the National Child Development Study were unsatisfactory because they ignored the effect on the child of the particular school.

The method used by Professor Michael Rutter in his much-praised study *Fifteen Thousand Hours* was good as far as it went, Professor Aitkin said. But its small sample of 12 schools could only show that schools made a

difference without giving convincing reasons why.

Now, however, efficient computer programming has made it possible to carry out analyses as sophisticated as Rutter's on a large scale.

Professor Aitkin's paper has appeared as the Department of Education is considering proposals for research comparing the effectiveness of individual schools. Until now the Department has only been able to make relatively crude comparisons between the performance of I.e.s.s. which, according to Professor Aitkin, suffer from the same defect as the Cox and Marks comparisons because they have no data on individual children.

Professor Aitkin told *The TES* this week that his aim in presenting the paper was to establish an agreed basis for future research on the effectiveness of schools and teachers. He said it would now be possible to compare the movement of standards over time and to establish, for instance, how effective schools were at educating children of different abilities.

It is understood that most speakers at the meeting of the Royal Statistical Society - traditionally a forum for robust debate - agreed with the paper.

But Mr Barry Wakefield, chief statistician at the DES, said he felt Professor Aitkin had overstated the case against aggregating results up to school level. Policy had to be evaluated on the basis of the data that were available, he argued.

Assessment: internal audit plan by consultants

A City firm of management consultants claim to have found a new way of assessing the performance of schools and want to sell the idea to the London borough of Croydon for £250,000, *Baylis writes*.

Spicer and Peglar Associates have approached Croydon and offered their scheme which, in its current form, would give schools marks out of 100 for effectiveness. The NUT, which has condemned the idea, is drawing up a rival scheme for whole-school assessment.

The commercial method - which has been described by Croydon's director Mr Donald Nalanth as an "internal audit" - would be based on an input and output model.

The consultants, who are also chartered accountants, would assess what goes into schools - spending on staff, buildings, books and resources, as well as pupils' home backgrounds - and what comes out - employment rates among school leavers, numbers going on to further education and exam results.

Mr Nalanth said he believed the proposal deserved "very serious consideration" because it seemed to have found a way of assessing schools on their own terms rather than simply on examination results.

He believed it would lead to better reputations for schools whose exam results had never been "top of the league" but which were found to be doing well given their circumstances.



Deal set to break impasse

by Richard Garner

A significant breakthrough in linking talks on college lecturers' pay and conditions of service has been achieved by employers and union negotiators.

The employers' side believes the deal - agreed last Friday - shows how the impasse which has bedevilled discussions on a new contract for primary and secondary teachers could be overcome - given goodwill on both sides.

Key union leaders on the primary and secondary panel are also convinced the deal will help pave the way for a successful resumption of restructuring talks - once this year's timetable and pay dispute is settled.

Under the deal, a pay survey would still have to be tabled in the Burnham further education committee but detailed discussions linking pay to conditions of service would be carried out in the national joint council set up six years ago to consider conditions. Any pay recommendations would have to be taken back to Burnham for ratification to comply with the Remuneration of Teachers Act. The Act legally stipulates that the Burnham committee is only for pay bargaining.

Support for the idea of a national joint council negotiating body for primary and secondary teachers came this week from Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers.

"If you cannot negotiate pay and conditions alongside each other, you end up selling your conditions for nothing," he said in his union's journal.

In the pay dispute, the NUT has asked Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, to convene a meeting with the NAS-UNW in an attempt to settle the two unions' differences.

bleak prospects: a housing estate in the Everton district of Liverpool - typical of the kind of urban deprivation described in the Church of England report on the inner cities. Summary, pages 10-11.

Sir Keith urged to quell inner cities report storm

by Mark Jackson and Bert Lodge

An appeal to Sir Keith Joseph to intervene to calm the furor over the Church of England's inner cities report is to be considered by its authors.

The report's call on Church and State to tackle the gross inequality it describes is being treated by other ministers involved in the row as an act of political hostility by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is a member of the General Synod, so the report could be seen as a challenge to the Government's point of view on the issue.

● The report's call on Church people living in the inner cities, particularly the clergy, to turn their backs on private schooling, was denounced by Mr Bruce McGowan, head of Haberdashers' Aske's School and chairman of the Head Masters Conference, as a violation of the fundamental freedom of parents to choose the best education available. "The authors of this report make the moral and personal predicament of inner city clergy much more difficult," he said.

The commission, reporting after a two-year survey of deprived urban areas, also admits church schools can be an obstacle to racial harmony and calls for joint Anglican-Roman Catholic schools offering places to Muslims and other faiths. Representatives from ethnic minorities in the neighbourhood should sit on governing boards.

In the inner cities church schools should be community schools with local people not professionals making the decisions.

He said that anyone involved in education must feel strongly about the issues the report raises on the future of young people.

Mr Burn told *The TES* that "Sir Richard had tried unsuccessfully to secure discussions with the last Conservative Party chairman, Mr John Selwyn Gummer, who is a member of the General Synod, so the report could be seen as a challenge to the Government's point of view on the issue."

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THIS WEEK

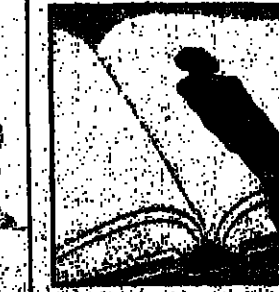
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A call for action

It is initially difficult to separate the Archbishop's Commission report on the inner cities (pages 10, 11) from the Government's disreputable attempts to discredit it before it had even appeared. Presumably that is the trouble with appointing Mr Norman Tebbit as minder of Mrs Thatcher's Government: he is not the man to observe the Queen's rules, least of all when dealing with a bunch of do-gooding churchmen.

It can only be a matter of speculation whether the play worked or not. Certainly weekend comments on Marxist theology whetted appetites all round and must have enhanced the sale of the report. And when Ministers like Mr Kenneth Baker popped up on TV and radio to heap rubbish on the very idea that there might be anything less than perfect with the inner cities, they made themselves look a good deal more ridiculous than Sir Richard O'Brien, the Bishop of Liverpool, Professor A H Halsey and the rest of the well-qualified and well-intentioned team which has spent two years studying the multifarious troubles of inner urban Britain.

The central fact of the matter – the key to the Government's acute sensitivity to criticism from the Church of England – is the deterioration in the quality of life in the cities which is there for all to see. The Government's apologetic fail to get to this point: things in the inner city are bad and getting



worse. This suggests that present policies may not be a complete answer to their needs.

The O'Brien report must have been in draft before Handsworth and Brixton 1985. The conditions it describes, the hopelessness it deplores, the alienation it anatomizes – these have their likely outcome in more insecurity and rioting, more environmental deterioration, more antisocial behaviour, drug-taking and crime, more despair. It is not enough to answer the points

made by the commission by pointing to existing policies. Inner cities now are evidence that existing policies are inadequate. The Archbishop's men and women are articulating a widespread belief that the inner cities need higher priorities – priorities based on moral principles which acknowledge that those who now live comfortably in Mrs Thatcher's Britain should be prepared to give up some of their financial privileges to do more for those at the bottom of the heap. If the Church of England cannot put this view forward without being labelled Marxist, things have come to a pretty pass.

The education section of the report deals both with public education policy and with the Church's own direct contribution. By putting unemployment and all that it does for the motivation of young people in the urban secondary schools at the forefront of the discussion, the report puts up a frontal challenge to the kind of rhetoric we have become accustomed to from Lord Young. "When school appears to have nothing to give, or when what it gives apparently leads to nothing, there is clearly a problem in finding a way to make its value and authority accepted. Young people who have nothing to lose will not fear punishment."

The commission's voice is not added to those who want much better pre-school provision in the inner cities. In fact, better pre-school preparation

now stands out as the most obvious way in which a reforming Education Secretary could raise standards. The research evidence is there to show it would work but, strangely, it seems to be the one tried and tested recipe for improvement which Sir Keith Joseph, for all his concern for standards and his fidgety willingness to meddle, has shown no interest in.

The Church itself comes in for plenty of criticism, particularly in the important sections on youth work and in the comments offered on the impression which clergy and bishops sometimes convey of knowing more about, and being more interested in, the independent schools than the maintained.

To some it will be a source of criticism – to others, of comfort – that the report contains little new. Most of the remedies and policy initiatives it discusses have been on the table for some time. It has a whiff of centrist, Alliance-like, reasonableness, and a willingness to invoke collectivist solutions which (such as Mrs Thatcher's achievement) now sound like a reversion to the 'sixties and 'seventies and a time when people still thought social problems were soluble or at least amenable to amelioration by state intervention. In this sense it is an optimistic document even if the picture of the inner city which it paints is gloomy: it actually believes that things could be made better by deliberate political action.

COMMENT

Moving to a climax?

The Honeyford affair appears to be moving to a climax. Mr Honeyford has now indicated that he is prepared to take early retirement provided the I.e.s. offers terms which compensate him adequately for being forced from office. He and his wife have come under great strain as a result of the street campaign which has been waged against him and he has now recognized that his opponents have succeeded in making his position untenable.

Andrew Brown, the chief representative of the *Salisbury Review*, has published a timely pamphlet entitled *Thats of Honeyford* (Centre for Policy Studies, £3.90) in which he recounts the main outline of the story and reprints, as an appendix, two of the articles which appeared in *The TES* and *The Salisbury Review* in 1983, which came to exercise an almost mythic importance in the hounding of Mr Honeyford.

Mr Brown's account is usefully detached – he seems to have appalled some well-known figures at the Centre for Policy Studies by his fair-mindedness – but while he got alongside Mr Honeyford and his main critics, he does not seem to have made any great efforts to find out what the members and officers of the I.e.s. made of the whole affair. This is a major defect in an otherwise informative and interesting analysis which recognizes weaknesses in Mr Honeyford's position, while also recording the disgraceful nature of the situation which has befallen him.

Mr Honeyford's articles only became a cause of acute contention because a group of passionate opponents chose to make them more important and more provocative than they were. He attacked some approaches to multicultural education. His combative style of polemic offended some of those in Bradford who were most closely associated with the multicultural policies which the Bradford Council had adopted. It was from the *Town Hall* that the first steps were taken which made him a *deus ex machina*. In his *TES* article, however, where 80 per cent of the pupils came from ethnic

minority groups, it is clear that he carried out the council's policies. It was his views not his conduct which offended.

What is not in question, however, is that Mr Honeyford was wise, as the head of a school with a large ethnic minority population, to write and speak about multiracial issues in the way he did. He could not, even if he wanted to, speak for himself alone. He could not lay aside his public role. As he became drawn further into controversy his every word came under close and hostile scrutiny and remarks which, made by another in a different context would have passed unnoticed and without giving offence, became the subject of instant accusations and counter-accusations.

Many people will conclude that Mr Honeyford contributed to his own difficulties. But who might not find himself doing so, when caught up in the war of words and slogans which broke about his head? Read in a particular way and in the context of Bradford racial politics, some of his words were insensitive and open to the kind of constructions which nowadays attract accusations of racism. His misfortunes only serve to emphasize the care which heads and, indeed, all concerned with the schools, have to exercise in racial matters.

If Mr Honeyford did, in some measure at least, dig his own pit, this cannot be held to justify his persecution by the anti-Honeyford campaigners, nor would it justify the I.e.s. in seeking him on grounds of professional dereliction. But it is clear that Drummond Middle School now has to face a new head who can pick up the pieces after this destructive and unedifying episode. Bradford will have to buy Mr Honeyford out and this will cost money which could have been better spent. Also Bradford begins that much less a good place to live in every time the fruit of tolerance is drawn a bit tighter.

Hereby-bundling is a form of blood sport this country can well do without. The practical business of multiracial education is hard enough without the proliferation of shibboleths and verbal tests of sincerity and doctrinal purity of the kind which Anne Sofer has spotted, in her back-page piece on interviews,

Flesh on the bones

The 1981 Act provided a minimal legal framework by way of implementation of the Warnock Report on special education needs, and since then there has been no great rush of resources or inspiration to put flesh on that frame.

Progress towards eliminating labels or changing attitudes – let alone integration into the mainstream of schooling – has been correspondingly slow and patchy. Sometimes it has seemed that multiplication of bureaucratic procedures and of educational psychologists has been the main result of the desired intention to give parents a say in assessment statements.

So the news (page 8) that the DES is to issue guidelines to local authorities on how to make parents' involvement a practical reality – by helping them to draw up their own profiles of their children – is welcome, though it should be noted that both groundwork and guidelines have been provided by voluntary group pressure, rather than any Government initiative.

But the crucial question, now that the assessment procedures are being sorted out, is how children's special needs are to be met once they have been identified in the statements.

That is why it seemed an appropriate time for the 'Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children' to write again to the Education Secretary to try to persuade him to change his mind about setting up a national advisory committee to monitor implementation of the Act. Sir Keith Joseph turned down the first proposal only last February, on the grounds that monitoring was the job of Government departments, ministers and HM Inspectorate, so he is not very likely to change his mind now. Nor is it easy to see how useful such a body would be in providing advice to a Government which has so resolutely set its collective mind against quotas, do-gooders, and, indeed, any source of outside advice.

But there is now widespread feeling, even among those who feared originally that such a body would be useless without teeth, that there is such a danger of fragmentation that a national group is essential if only for the

dissemination of good practice.

Certainly what is most damaging is that few I.e.s. are devising any systematic policies on how to meet special needs in the ordinary classroom, and what the implications for staffing and specialist support would be.

Most I.e.s. can plead other pressures and lack of resources, but the sad consequence of such a failure to think about policy is that when action is taken it is likely to be in the form of integration without proper back-up, in response to pressure groups.

Mainstreaming on these terms is more likely to lead to isolation than integration, and HMI has already put down a preliminary marker of concern on this score in recent reviews of local authority spending policies. The Inspectorate has not yet collected enough evidence on integration in practice in the course of normal visiting to devote a paper to the issue and is unlikely to be able to do so for many months – so much for Sir Keith's assurance that monitoring can be left to them – but inspectors are known to be worried about some of the integration on the cheap that they have seen.

If, however, any I.e.s. were to set out coherent policies for meeting special needs in the ordinary classroom, together with implications for staffing, there might then be a convincing case on resources to argue.

What we can be sure of is that the Government will not itself initiate national plans that imply open-ended financial commitments. A national advisory committee could act as a focus for concern, but I.e.s. themselves need to devise coherent policies in the knowledge of the Government and resources that they have.

To measure value added

The fact that statistics can now confidently assert that the effects of different teachers and schools can now be measured with accuracy and confidence, at Lancaster's Professor of Applied Statistics, Murray Aitkin, says, (page 1) may be seen as a benefit or a threat – but it is certainly an enormous change, brought by the marriage of statistical technique and

computing power. One certain benefit is that crude analyses of the exam results of different schools should become a thing of the past.

Some local authorities are already using carefully weighted analyses to compare the results of their schools. But it still isn't cheap or easy to apply the new techniques. For one thing, according to Professor Aitkin, they need longitudinal studies to provide measures of what individual pupils bring to schools when they arrive. Inner London's study following children through junior schools, to be published next year, is a good example of the new possibilities.

Among other things, it will show that while children's measured attainment at the junior stage is still closely linked to factors in their home backgrounds, the progress they make varies enormously from school to school.

Professor Aitkin believes that this sort of work, done across schools in different authorities, should be able to tell us much more about the effects of different resource levels, teacher-pupil ratios, and the approaches and attitudes of different teachers and schools, on pupils' performance.

The Department of Education and Science is now inviting bids for research projects investigating educational outcomes in different schools within authorities, since their present data only allows uninformative comparisons between authorities. Now also seems the right time for a new major longitudinal study, tailor-made to make the most of the new statistical techniques, which hold out the promise of much more precise and complex information about the factors that make for successful teaching and schools than existing data can provide.

no comment

"Exclusions (1) Candidates may not combine Greek with Greek and Greek Civilization, nor may candidates who offer Greek and Greek Civilization at separate subjects or Greek and Classical Civilization (Greek and Roman) at separate subjects take a Greek Civilization paper within the subject Greek." From the MEO Syllabus for classical subjects. Joint GCSE/CSE Examinations, Summer 1987.

MPs told national criteria require improved training

by Sarah Bayliss

The new national criteria on teacher training have highlighted the need for longer, more sophisticated primary training. MPs were told this week.

Giving evidence to the Select Committee on Education, representatives from university departments of education and from the public sector training institutions were unanimous in calling for a two-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education to replace the existing one-year course.

They also called for an obligatory and systematic induction programme for new teachers, giving them time off and support from inside and outside school during their probationary year. Criticisms of the national criteria being applied by the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education were also voiced. Mr Michael Bruce, chairman of SCETT – the Standing Committee for the Education and Training of Teachers in the Public Sector – said recent improvements in BED courses were jeopardised by the criteria. "They seriously limit the freedom of institutions to plan the sort of courses they think most appropriate."

The recruitment of mature students was becoming an urgent issue, given the fall in applications this year for teacher training. But one new criterion stated that 75 per cent of all new students must have standard qualifications for degree entry. This threatened successful courses which had hitherto accepted more than 25 per cent of students via "access" courses and other routes.

SCETT believed that since the 1970s a good balance had been struck on

BED courses between applied education and the academic study of subject areas. But another new criterion was insisting that the equivalent of two years must be spent on the advanced academic study of specialisms.

Mr Bruce said it was strongly feared that issues such as multicultural education, meeting special needs, relations with parents and work across the curriculum would be neglected "given that two years will be pre-empted by the CATS subject criteria."

Mr Malcolm Lee, past president of NATFHE and tutor at Doncaster Institute of Higher Education, said there was a price tag on the criteria. For instance, releasing college staff to obtain relevant experience in primary teaching cost money in terms of covering for their absence.

Mr Alan Bamford, principal of Homerton College, said he considered half a day a week was the "minimum" time which a trainer should spend in classrooms, but to make this possible at Homerton he needed more resources.

Mr Lee said a great deal was being expected of trainers. Recently he had seen an advertisement from a North Wales college requiring a graduate to teach honours level maths to BED students. Candidates had to have recent, relevant and substantial experience in primary teaching and preferably, they would be able to speak Welsh. He had not been surprised to see the post advertised several times.

A team of four from the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), advocated more joint

appointments between universities and schools with proper guarantees of security.

Mrs Audrey Curtis, a tutor in child development at the London Institute of Education, said UCET was not against secondary teachers becoming primary teachers. But it was vital that candidates were personally suited to teaching younger children and that they had not been unsuccessful in working with older children.

"There are a lot of people in the primary sector who feel that secondary people are being sent down to them for the wrong reasons."

A one-year retraining programme would be ideal but as a minimum there should be at least one term followed by a year's induction programme.

She had met a secondary-trained teacher who had been "teaching 14-year-olds one week and four-year-olds the next," without any retraining. Training, retraining, in-service training and educational research should be planned and co-ordinated as a coherent whole, said the chairman of UCET, Professor Paul Hirst, from the department of education at Cambridge.

The DES was currently reviewing financial support for in-service and legislation was expected. It was vital that institutions should have a role in planning and that short courses devised by local authorities should not be the overriding priority.

There needed to be long secondments for teachers to take up academic study in universities over a term or a year.

Computer team on line to help maths mistakes

by Susannah Kirkman

A team from the National Foundation for Educational Research is developing a computerized package to help primary teachers diagnose their pupils' most common mistakes in arithmetic.

Not all teachers are able to analyse children's errors in enough detail, according to Mr Neil Hagues, a research officer at the NFER's Test and Development Unit. "She could do it when I taught her, but she forgot it two days later," was one explanation frequently given by teachers for children's mistakes, Mr Hagues said.

Other teachers did not have time to build up a clear picture of where pupils were going wrong.

But the NFER's new computer programme, which has been tested at over 20 primary schools, will quickly identify pupils' problems with subtraction and addition. Children will answer

a series of questions flashed up on a computer terminal. The answers will all be checked to see if the pupils have made any of the sixteen most common errors in subtraction or addition.

If the children answer correctly, or a clear pattern of errors has emerged, the test will stop. Otherwise, the computer will search for consistent mistakes in a further series of questions. It will store the results so that teachers can use them as a basis for remedial work.

Two-thirds of children tested by the NFER made consistent mistakes which accounted for at least 50 per cent of their errors, Mr Hagues said. Children rarely made irrational errors such as subtraction.

The test will be available next year.

Money for deprived pupils

Primary schools in Birmingham with a high proportion of children on free meals will qualify for extra resources next year.

The schools, where as many as seven out of ten pupils receive free lunches, are to benefit from a one-off additional allowance of £50,000 for equipment, books and materials. Forty extra teachers are being drafted in.

The scheme was approved by Birmingham's education committee last week and will be included in next year's budget.

Mr John Charlton, Labour chairman of the schools sub-committee, compared the decision with the 1967 Plowden recommendation that educa-

tional priority areas be given a special claim on resources.

He said that the proportion of children receiving a free meal was a good indicator of social need and that there was no point in the city doing further research to establish where extra help was required.

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NEWS

De La Salle wins a further reprieve

A late concession by Sir Keith Joseph has staved off closure for De La Salle College of Higher Education in the latest chapter of the college's three-year battle for survival.

Sir Keith has given the Roman Catholic college until March 31 next year to come up with a fully developed merger proposal with the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education. This effectively means that the college will stay in business until 1989 to see through the last of its 630 students, even if the merger proposal is ultimately turned down.

But the Education Secretary has also agreed to an additional intake of 200 students to diversified courses next autumn, thus raising hopes of a permanent stay of closure.

The concession was contained in a letter from Sir Keith to the Bishop of Salford, chairman of the board of governors, only a day before the board was due to meet on Nov 29.

It is yet another rebuff to the National Advisory Body following his ultimatum on teacher training, which will be raised at an emergency meeting with Sir Keith next Thursday.

In addition to heated exchanges on the timetable for revised advice on teacher training and the future of De La Salle College, NAB members will raise the issue of capital spending on polytechnics and colleges and the size of the advanced further education pool.

Sir Keith will be warned that the level of cuts necessary in 1987/8 now seems certain to be twice that originally forecast because of the £15 million shortfall in this year's budgets. The commitment to restore funding levels next year would mean cuts of 10 per cent in first-year student numbers.

They will also complain that £4.5 million has been cut from the provision budget for capital projects. Mr Michael Birt, NAB's secretary, meeting for the first time under the



George Walden

chairmanship of Mr George Walden, under-secretary for higher education, unanimously refused either to meet Sir Keith's new May deadline or to accept his alternative that allocations for 1987-90 should be set by the DES.

Mr John Bevan, the NAB secretary, said later: "The issue is not just one of timing. It is the relationship between the committee and the Secretary of State in offering him advice on how to conduct our overall planning exercise." He said that the reduction in the capital budget and the rejection of NAB advice to close De La Salle had added to the tensions which had led to the request for Thursday's meeting.

The committee also decided on Monday to reprieve Huddersfield Polytechnic's department of architecture but to recommend the closure of the department at the North East London Polytechnic. Dr Gerry Fowler, director of NELP, has threatened to sue the Education Secretary if he accepts the advice. *THE TIMES*

Act seen as barrier to change

The need to observe the Sex Discrimination Act has now become a further obstacle to local education authorities considering school reorganization schemes.

A High Court judge ruled last Friday that Avon County Council's plan to close Merrywood Boys' School while retaining two girls' schools was in breach of the 1975 Act.

"To deprive boys, but not girls, is to treat boys less favourably," Mr Justice Taylor said.

His ruling, and his decision to quash the proposal to close Merrywood school, have been greeted with jubilation by local parents, who had formed an action committee and raised 1803 objections. They were backed by a new national pressure group, PACE (Parental Alliance for Choice in Education) of which a leading member is Mr Fred Naylor, the right-wing education campaigner.

But Dr John Glendinning, Labour chairman of Avon education committee, said it was a "depressing" judgment, made under an Act that appeared more relevant to El Vito's wine bar than to education.

"The great tragedy," he added, "is that meanwhile education in South Bristol is steadily deteriorating." He thought it unlikely that the council would appeal because there had already been such a great delay over reorganization.

"It's a very awkward judgment for I.e.s. all over the country," Dr Glendinning said. "It means they can't close a single sex school without closing another, to match it."

CET director

Mr Richard Fothergill, director of the Micro-electronics Education Programme, has been appointed to succeed Mr Geoffrey Hubbard as director of the Council for Educational Technology.

Axe student grants call

Student grants should be abolished and the money saved be handed to the University Grants Committee to distribute to individual universities, who would then run their own student aid offices. Professor Robin Marris of London's Birkbeck College – who made this proposal last night in the

Suntory-Toyota Lecture at the London School of Economics – said it would save public money and make universities more flexible and independent.

An article based on other parts of Professor Marris's lecture is on page 4 of this week's *TES*.

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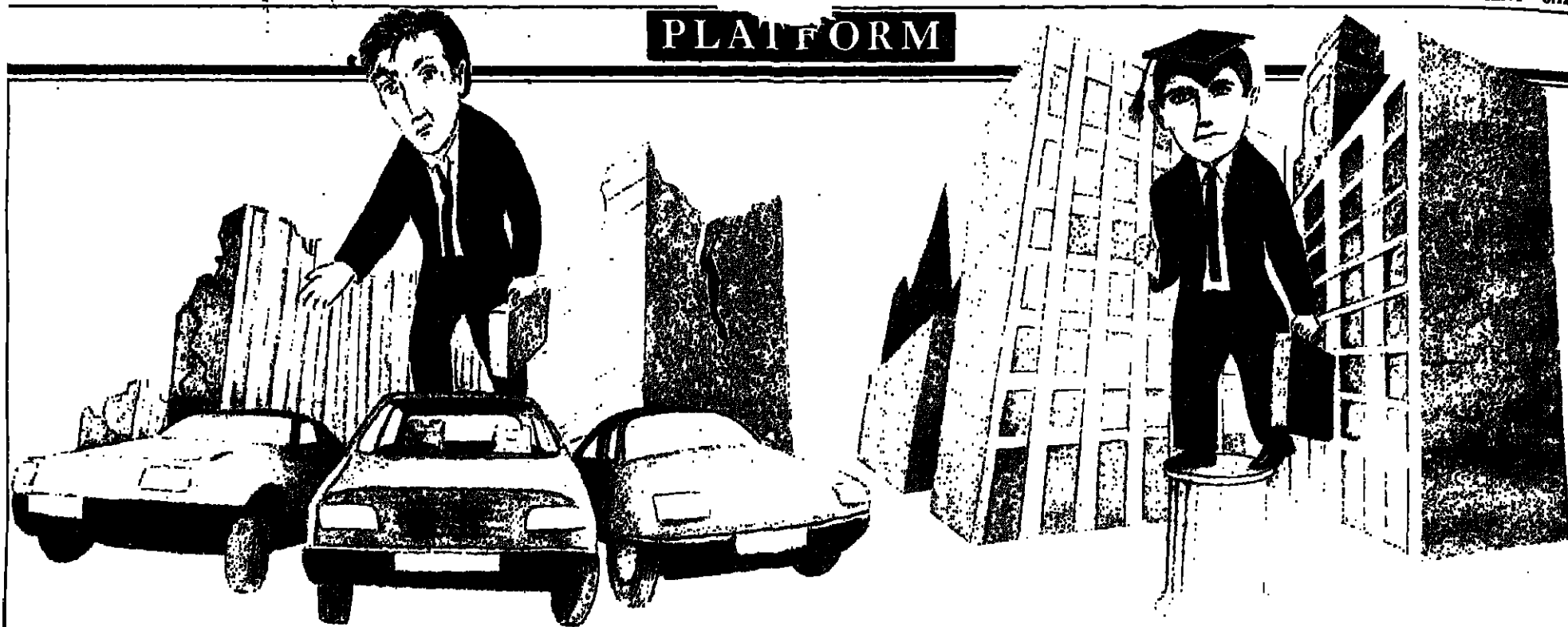
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PLATFORM



Why Sir Keith should be impeached

Professor Robin Marris presents a case for the prosecution

There is little doubt in my mind that if a judicial process were available for impeaching baronets, Keith Sinjohn, second baronet Joseph of Portoken, City of London, would be convicted of treason for systematically trying to degrade the nation's higher education system. Unlike many other parts of the British economy and society, as far as quality and efficiency are concerned, higher education is an area where we literally lead the world. The academic standards of our degrees are universally admired, and it is widely accepted that we manage to teach students as much in three to four years as other countries do in five to ten. This is in marked contrast to our position in other international league tables—for example, the one for productivity in manufacturing industry (see chart). If the comparison were confined to the car industry alone, it would look even worse.

Yet we have the spectacle of a Government which claims to be devoted to improving efficiency, not only refusing to recognize these facts, but more or less saying that it doesn't care. I used to think that Sir Keith Joseph was well-intentioned, and that his faults of policy were partly due to misinformation or pressure on public spending. But since the publication of the so-called "Green Paper" on higher education, this view is no longer

tenable. It is now clear that he does know the relevant facts: some of these are actually hidden in the Green Paper's appendices; others are available in various forms in other Government publications. But the policies described in the words of the Green Paper have been condemned by almost everyone who has read them. For example, in a recent speech Dr David Owen described the Government's attitude as "narrow, carping, malevolent and incompetent".

It is difficult to think of stronger words than these, but, as a matter of fact, from the point of view of the general public (and more especially from the point of view of parents of children now aged around 15), the situation is more sinister even than David Owen's strong words imply. For the Government's policies appear like a deliberate attempt to arrest the progress of upward social mobility in this country. Ministers are basing their student-numbers forecasts on the assumption that the upward trend in the propensity for manual-workers' children to go to college will cease, and also that the upward trend in the propensity of girls of all classes to go to college will cease. They are also assuming that the children of graduates whose own parents were not graduates will show their grandparents' rather than their parents', college-going propensity.

All these assumptions are sociologically ridiculous. The Government knows they are ridiculous and knows that everyone knows they know. But, rightly or wrongly (wrongly, in my view), because British higher education, apart from being exceptionally efficient, also suffers from being exceptionally dependent, as compared with other countries, on the public purse, the Government ultimately controls the student numbers. So it has the power to turn these "forecasts" into prophecies. So people who vote for Thatcherism as opportunity-creating are being cynically cheated. The Government's policies will undoubtedly reduce opportunities for personal advancement in British society, now and in the future. And that, it seems, must be the intention.

The Government tries to justify its posture on higher education by a general need to save public expenditure. This could be convincing but isn't. In the first place, the argument completely fails to comprehend the true character of the contemporary public expenditure "problem". It is true that public expenditure has reached a record share of the national income, but that is entirely the result of unemployment and the high cost of servicing the national debt, the grotesque current interest rates, the share of "real" things, like education, health, defence, public administration, has been constant in the national income for the past decade and a half. In other words, what the Government is saying to education and other similar vital national sectors is "because we are making a complete mess up of managing the economy you have got to suffer". This is a terrible indictment, especially as the damage will continue long after most of the Government, and certainly Sir Keith Joseph, are dead.

In the second place, the Government has not seriously investigated alternative financial and administrative structures that could permit British higher education, and especially the universities, to expand to serve the nation with a less direct taxpayer cost. Admittedly, there was a crude and politically abortive attempt to substitute student loans for maintenance grants, but the problem is much more complex, much more "total" than this initiative comprehended. We have to find a scheme which increases, and is seen to increase, the access of all classes to the system; not just reduce an apparent middle-class privilege.

As a smoke-screen for their appalling policies, the Government has been trying to spread the idea that, rather than being extremely efficient, British higher education institutions, and more especially the universities, are vaguely incompetent or at least "un-businesslike". Through the medium of a worthy body called the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Government provided a large sum of money for a firm of management consultants to study university efficiency.

This led to a document known as the

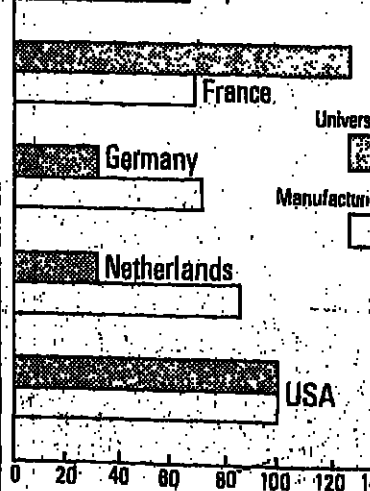
Jarratt Report, so named after its chairman, Sir Alex Jarratt, vice-chairman of the Midland Bank, an organization not renowned in international circles for superior business efficiency. In the middle of their report, the Jarratts pronounced the following amazing words: "Measures of input are far better developed than measures of output. It is agreed that far more work needs to be done on measures of output."

Given that in science or business, "efficiency" means the ratio of output to input, this is like saying, "We were asked to measure efficiency, but we couldn't find the data for the numerator of the fraction, so we have given you just the denominator instead." In short, they didn't measure efficiency at all. The analogy is not with "half a loaf", but with the curate's egg.

The cream of the joke (not a funny one) was that there do exist in official national and international sources the data required for measuring academic efficiency. There are data on degrees and diplomas awarded and data on teachers and administrators employed. All one has to do is to divide the one set of numbers by the other.

UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIVITY VERSUS MANUFACTURING IN 1980

U-LEVEL FIRST DEGREES PER STUDENT COMPARED TO REAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT PER WORKER YEAR



This chart above is a sample. Why is British higher education so inefficient? Part of the answer lies in the quality of the raw material, ie students. In this country, university entrants are specially well-prepared. They are also better and more intensively taught than in most other countries. So the

completion rate is fast, the drop out and failure rates low.

Another reason for the efficiency is that during the decade and a half up to 1981 the system displayed the typical behaviour of an expanding industry: output grew faster than input. It was one of the few sectors in the economy in that period, where real wages did not tend to run ahead of productivity. The Government knows this, but would die rather than refer to the facts: their present policies are designed to put the process into reverse, and will therefore tend to reduce, rather than increase, both university and national efficiency.

Finally, teaching, and especially higher-education teaching, is the kind of thing the British tend to do well. It is the other side of the coin of our industrial decline: a recent poll of attitudes among young people aged 13 to 19 gave teachers generally two and a half times the social rating of industrial managers.

Of course, everything is by no means lovely in our garden. The fact that we have a fine educational system and bad economic record is a grave and most unfunny contrast. There has been much discussion of the reasons for it, and many people think that the two sides of the coin are directly linked. Our industrial decline is blamed on excessive academic emphasis and general elitism in our secondary schools and sixth-form colleges. But the same factor helps the minority who got to college to be well prepared. For example, the great majority of American college entrants would not be able to pass a British maths O level (not additional) let alone an A level. And most readers of this article who think they still know French would fall on grammar in a French O level.

So, surely, if, instead of the present Government, one were dealing with a government whose attitude to higher education was inspired by patriotism, rationality and the public interest, one would accept much need for change. A sane policy would involve a massive further expansion of higher education in this country, to bring it within the reach of the much broader segment of the population who could benefit. In the jargon of the business, the "age-participation rate" (proportion of 18-year age group that goes to college) needs to be sharply increased. But the character of the expansion should be, and would need to be, different from the past. Without losing our reputation for high quality, we would need to move some way in the American direction, with less severe academic emphasis, and less early specialization in fifth and sixth-forms. I have no doubt, whatsoever, that the whole higher education system, not only universities, but also our excellent polytechnics and other colleges, would effectively and enthusiastically respond, and would continue to be highly efficient.

This article is based on part of the *Sophy-Toyota Lecture* given by the author at the LSE this week.

NEWS

Increase in child smoking worries DHSS ministers

by Diane Spencer

A new survey showing that one in five secondary school pupils smokes has alarmed Government ministers.

The survey by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys suggests that the number of child smokers is increasing in some age groups—particularly 14 and 15-year-olds girls.

And the Government has reacted to the report by announcing it is to spend £1 million on a television campaign aimed at 11 to 16-year-olds.

Mr Rory Whitney, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health, said that there was evidence that the great majority of adults who smoked took up the habit in their teenage years. "It is therefore vital that we step up our efforts to dissuade youngsters from starting to smoke in the first place."

The survey covered 9,234 pupils in almost 300 schools in Great Britain in 1984. A similar survey was carried out in 1982.

The new survey showed:

- a disturbing increase in the number of fourth-year girls taking up smoking: 24 per cent compared with 15 per cent in 1982, whereas the number of boys rose by 2 per cent;
- 22 per cent of all secondary school pupils smoked (19 per cent in 1982);
- 13 per cent smoked regularly, a 2 per cent increase on 1982; and
- 31 per cent of boys smoked regularly in the fifth year (1982: 26 per cent), while the figure for girls stayed at 28 per cent.

Judging by the survey, which was carried out for the Department of Health and Social Security, boys experiment with smoking earlier than girls, but girls catch up during their second year. It also suggests that almost a quarter of regular smokers have 10 or more cigarettes a day.

There was little regional variation in the sample. Welsh teenagers smoked slightly fewer cigarettes and the preva-

lence was higher in southern England than elsewhere in England and Wales.

Pupils who smoked were more likely to have parents and brothers and sisters who smoked. In England and Wales 29 per cent of pupils whose brothers and sisters smoked were regular smokers, compared with 8 per cent of pupils with non-smoking siblings.

Although most pupils accepted that smoking was associated with health risks, about one-third thought smoking was only harmful to those who smoked a lot.

The survey suggests that 11 to 15-year-olds are smoking between 19.6 and 26 million cigarettes a week—at an annual cost of between £70 million and £90 million.

Smoking among secondary school children in 1984, by Joy Dobbs and Alan Marsden, OPCS social survey division, HMSO £10.50.



£1 million is to be spent on an anti-smoking television campaign

Labour to consider new mandatory grant scheme

by Biddy Passmore

An end to parental contributions to student grants and the extension of mandatory grants to many more full and part-time students are key features of a £700 million a year student support package recommended to Labour education spokesmen this week.

A working party chaired by Lord Glenamara, the former Education Secretary Ted Short, also proposes the introduction of maintenance allowances for all 16 to 18-year-olds, which is already well-established Labour policy.

The working party's report contains four key proposals:

- restoration of the value of mandatory grants to 1979 levels, costing £110m;
- elimination of the parental contribution over a period of years, ultimately costing some £200m at 1985 prices;
- extension of mandatory grants to all full and part-time students over 18 on courses where the terminal qualification is higher than A level, costing "little in the first instance and no great sum ultimately"; and
- provision of educational maintenance allowances (EMAs) worth £27 a week at 1985 prices to all 16 to 19-year-olds staying on full-time at school or college; this would cost £474 million a year if all EMAs were paid in full but the working party accepts that means-testing might be necessary as an interim measure.

The working party acknowledges that the proposals are "potentially costly" and Lord Glenamara stressed on Tuesday that their implementation would depend on the state of the economy and might take more than the lifetime of one government.

Any initial means testing for EMAs would be on parental income but the allowance would be paid direct to the young person.

Pay dispute halts talks on contract

by Mike Durham

Talks between teaching unions and local authority employers on dozens of issues—including negotiations over a new contract—have now been halted for a year because of the pay dispute.

The CLEA/School Teachers' committee, which is the only forum for discussion between teachers and employers on conditions of service, as well as pay, has been in a "shopping list" of demands since December 5 last year.

Now teachers' leaders are accusing the local authorities of deliberately sabotaging talks. The employers say the two sides cannot meet during an industrial dispute.

CLEA/ST, which is made up of elected local authority members and union delegates and has its own secretariat, normally meets two or three times a

year. Routine issues normally aired include mid-day supervision, premature retirement, and fixed-term contracts.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the teachers' three requests for a meeting of CLEA/ST had been turned down.

The union side had a "shopping list" of demands it wanted to discuss, but have been pressing for dates, but the employers have told us there is a "convention" which prevents them meeting us while the pay dispute is on," he said. "That's the first we've heard about it."

The issue the union wants to raise most urgently is its claim for a minimum staffing establishment, which

would be central to the new contract for teachers which employers are keen to negotiate.

A staffing agreement could lead to talks on maximum class sizes, levels of cover for absent teachers, guaranteed levels of non-contact time and the right to in-service training.

An NUT spokesman said: "We don't know what effect it might have on the contract negotiations."

There is no point in talking generalities until the specifics have been resolved," he said.

The local authority side had also stored up issues it wants to discuss in the long term. As well as contract hours, it wants to reach agreement on in-service training, leave of absence, and the development of the GCSE.

tions of service. CLEA/ST is the only place where it can be done."

Other issues the unions want to raise include a common application form for teachers' jobs, taxation of travelling allowances, levels of personal accident insurance, and paternity leave.

A spokesman for the employers agreed that CLEA/ST was in "limbo" but added that it would be pointless to

reopen the issue until the specifics have been resolved," he said.

The local authority side had also stored up issues it wants to discuss in the long term. As well as contract hours, it wants to reach agreement on in-service training, leave of absence, and the development of the GCSE.

16-plus advice 'ignores Swann'

by Howard Sharron

The Government has been accused of ignoring the recommendations of the Swann Report on multicultural education in the criteria for the syllabuses of the new GCSE exams.

A study by the Birmingham Council for Community Relations suggests the national criteria are at worst culturally biased; at best they leave examination boards with enough discretion to ignore recent thinking on multicultural education.

Carole Underwood, the education officer of the CRC who carried out the research, claims that boards could devise subject syllabuses that are discriminatory and represent a step backwards from some of the old CSE courses.

She says she already has evidence that this is happening in the syllabuses being devised by the Midlands Examination Board and suspects it is happening countrywide.

Her report, which has been taken up nationally by the Commission for Racial Equality, points out that the Gov-

ernment has produced criteria for "Latin, Greek, French and Welsh. Yet ethnic languages do not figure at all."

Despite the rhetoric in the criteria and the need to draw up an English language syllabus which considers "the implications of English in a multicultural society" Carole Underwood says there is nothing to require exam boards to include the development of dialects, creoles and patois.

Similarly, while boards may extend the scope of English literature studies beyond traditional texts to instil a sense of the richness of cultural diversity, there is nothing to prevent a purely "white" English literature syllabus. The recommendations of the Cockcroft Report, which said the history of mathematics should be taught in a way that would show the contribution of various cultures to the discipline, have been ignored, adds Ms Underwood.

The economics criteria are wholly Anglo-centric, with the rest of the world introduced only to show how it affects the British economy. The same criticism is levelled at the criteria for music, home economics and some history topics.

But perhaps the most biased criteria are those for religious studies, she claims. Although the DES's general aim is that religious studies should be open to candidates of any religious persuasion she maintains the Department's guidelines have the "opposite effect."

Students will be required to study at least one major religion in depth in general courses. In practice this will nearly always be Christianity with the other religions merely touched upon.

Support for GCSE rebels

by Richard Garner

A growing number of secondary school headteachers have been urging their union to back them if they refuse to go on training sessions for the GCSE examination.

Now leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers have told their branches that it will support any head who refuses to take part in preparatory work for the new examination.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said this week: "The union believes the education service will not be ready for the introduction of the GCSE in 1988."

"A growing number of our secondary heads are worried. They are not willing or able to take part in this work—mainly because of the teachers' pay dispute."

Teacher union opposition to the new exam will be stepped up at the beginning of next term—if, as seems likely, the 10-month-old pay battle is still continuing.

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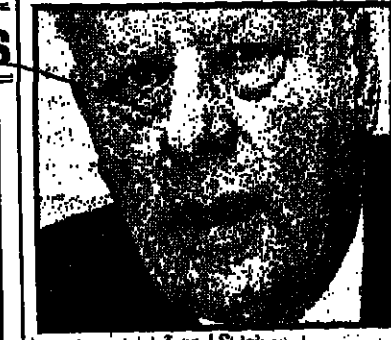
HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Announcements

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, EDINBURGH

Ms Jean Scott (44) has been appointed Headmistress from September 1986.

Ms Scott was educated at George Watson's Ladies' College, Wellington School, Ayr and Glasgow University. She is currently Senior Mistress and Head of the Biology Department at Scotch High School and is a member of the Scottish Women's Union.



Lord Swann

As the Ray Honeyford saga seems to be drawing to a close, Bert Lodge traces the fears and dilemmas that have faced the Bradford headteacher

The final act: but will the curtain fall?

Mr Ray Honeyford never had any doubt that so long as his opponents maintained their campaign against him they would succeed in ousting him from Drummond Middle School.

The reason is simple: they demonstrated early on their readiness to upset pupils' education and the smooth running of the school as a tactic to impose their will on Bradford education authority.

As far back as April this year, while under suspension at home, Mr Honeyford told *The TES*: "I am in a hopeless dilemma. I want nothing more than to do my job in peace whilst exercising normal professional rights to free expression. But I know if I go back the action group will effectively wreck the life of the school - they have publicly and repeatedly said they will disrupt the life of the school until I am removed."

The Parents' Action group was formed in March 1984, a few days after Mr Honeyford's first day at the school, which had appeared two months earlier in the *Salisbury Review*. On May 5 the group organized a march upon the city education office and wrung from the officers the promise of an investigation.

Just over a month later, on June 11, a boycott of the school by parents was organized. On June 15 almost three out of four pupils were kept at home. The summer holidays afforded respite but as soon as the autumn term opened parents of 230 pupils wrote to the chief education officer requesting their children be transferred away from the school.

All the letters were identical, were not posted, but were handed in as a package at the education offices. Printed in English and an Asian language, they had been hawked round the district by a door-to-door team and put in front of parents to sign. Ten parents subsequently told Mr Honeyford they wanted nothing to do with their own requests for transfer.

The following month a meeting of the Drummond governors at City Hall was disrupted by a crowd of about 50 chanting and banging on the door.

In March this year, the most fundamental disruption of the school was

achieved when the parents' action group set up an alternative school for a week in a local community centre. This emptied half the desks at Drummond.

Mr Honeyford told *The TES*: "The position here grows more fraught and confused. The activists become ever more extreme. My great fear now is for the school. Its coherence and stability is undoubtedly threatened."

"The effects of my continued harassment and the constant threat by extremists to upset our daily life are beginning to affect the whole atmosphere. The staff remain astonishingly resilient and loyal but I don't know that I have any right to continue in office when my presence must, indirectly, threaten their morale."

"I am increasingly worried about the children. The ones who attended the



Ray Honeyford: negotiations on settlement underway

But perhaps Mr Honeyford was being a shade disingenuous. For the reality was that some considerable time before the whole saga started Mr Honeyford had already crossed swords with Mr Roper on the question of multi-racial education. Correspondence revealed in the *Yorkshire Post* showed some angry exchanges between the two. Mr Honeyford can hardly have expected the sympathy from his employers a head could normally count upon.

Some time before the important governors' meeting announced for June, leaflets were distributed among the Asian population purporting to summarize Mr Honeyford's writings.

'I am the object of constant insults and abuse every time I report for duty'

so-called alternative school came back badly affected. One or two wore HONEYFORD OUT badges they had been encouraged to make.

On April 1 came news of a memo from seven of the council's race relations specialists recommending Mr Honeyford be refused the place he had applied for on their race awareness course because he was "a known racist." The National Association of Head Teachers immediately began libel proceedings.

Two days later, following a vote of no confidence by eight to seven in the school's sub-committee, Mr Honeyford was suspended.

Mr Honeyford clearly felt that the chief education officer, Mr Richard Knight, and his deputy, Mr Norman Roper, could have condemned the tactics of the parent's action group in more forthright terms.

Mr Honeyford commented after one demonstration earlier this year: "One thing I have learned is this - civil servants do not know how to cope with street politics - and the activists know this and exploit it for all its worth."

Biddy Passmore on a controversial decision to publish

Think-tank pamphlet sparks row

Waves from the Honeyford affair were this week threatening to engulf the Centre for Policy Studies, the right-wing think-tank set up by Sir Keith Joseph.

Baroness Cox and Dr John Marks, chairman and secretary respectively of the CPS education study group which Mr Honeyford has been attending, were outraged by the centre's decision to publish a pamphlet about the trials of the Bradford headmaster when the group had unanimously recommended that it be delayed and amended.

The group felt that the pamphlet, written by Mr Andrew Brown of *The Spectator* and published on Monday, was badly timed and had two major omissions: the political background to the affair and the events of the current term.

Lady Cox departed for a US lecture at the weekend having informed the *Sunday Telegraph* "badly and rudely" that the decision to publish implied that their resignations were offered.

In a letter published in Monday's *Daily Telegraph* she expressed the group's indignation that the centre had suggested rectifying the omissions "in a few paragraphs, written over the weekend."

"In our view," she continued, "it would have been irresponsible to attempt to do justice to these large, complex and delicate issues in the way."

But it was not clear this week if the two had really resigned or if, as seemed likely, they would seek the advice of fellow members of the group before deciding on such an extreme step.

Mr Oliver Knox, the CPS publications director who commissioned the pamphlet, said that the decision to publish had been made by the publications sub-committee under Lord (Hugh) Thomas, the centre's chairman. "Now that the book has been published, I hope no one will feel he need resign," he added.

Mr Ray Honeyford, the headmaster whose two-year trials are charted in the pamphlet, has been attending meetings of the study group since the beginning of the year. It is understood, however, that he had no major objection to the pamphlet.

While Mr Brown's account is broadly sympathetic to Mr Honeyford and dismisses the charge that he is a racist, it is also critical of his writings and behaviour.

Trials of Honeyford, problems in multi-cultural education by Andrew Brown is available price £3.50 from the Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL.

Jasmine: education must share blame

by Diane Spencer

Education was among local authority services in the London borough of Brent, which bore some responsibility for the death of four-year-old Jasmine Beckford, the report of the inquiry into her case concludes.

Jasmine was battered to death in July 1984 by her stepfather, Maurice Beckford, who is now serving a 10-year sentence for manslaughter.

Her death was preventable and predictable, said the committee chaired by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. It makes nearly 70 recommendations including some directed at the education service.

Every school should have one teacher designated to liaise with social services to gather and pass on information relating to children in care or on the child abuse register.

Local authorities should tell education teachers and the school when a child becomes the subject of a care order and education welfare officers

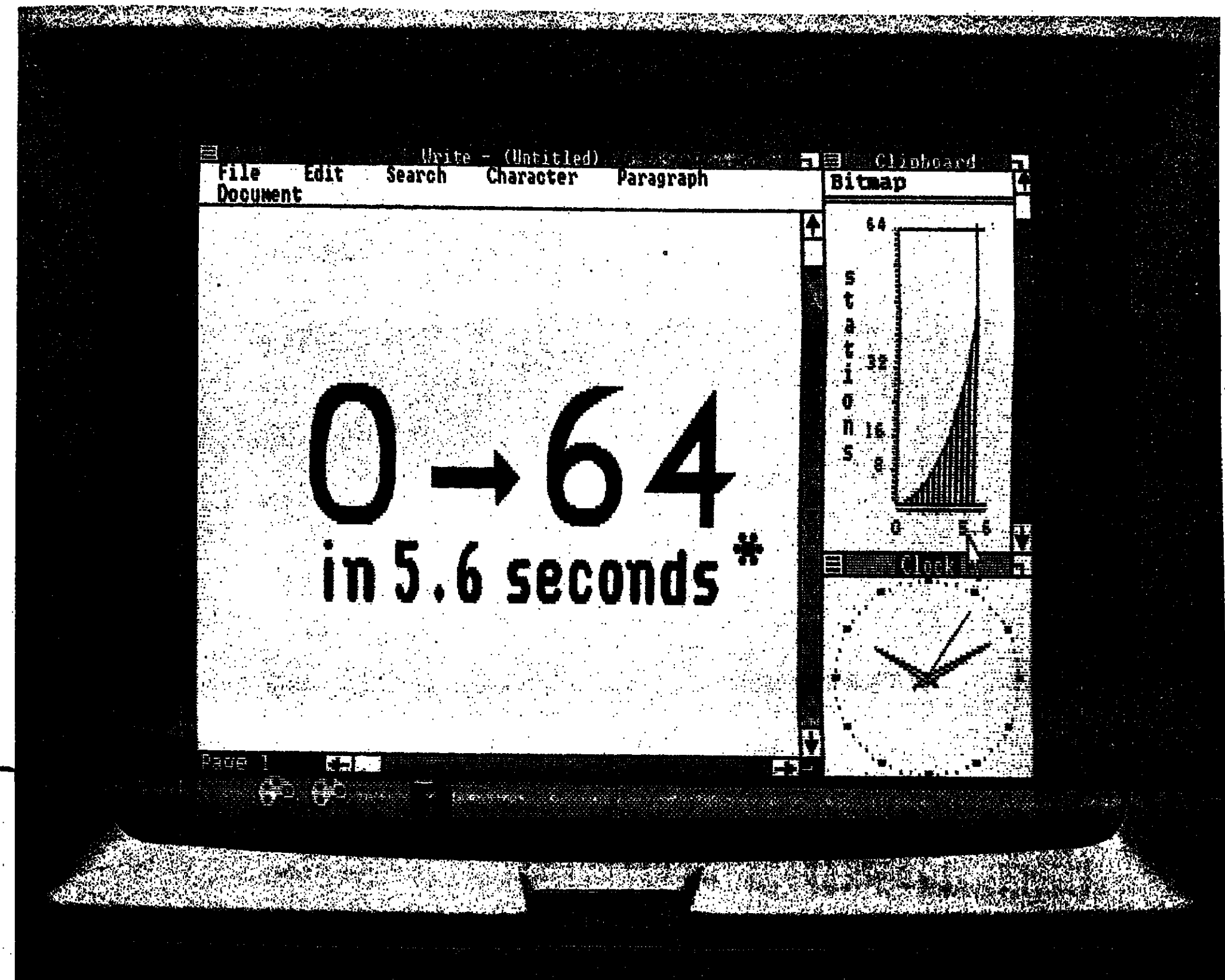
duties should be extended to cover nursery schools.

The report criticized a doctor who examined Jasmine at Mortimer Road nursery in a "development check" without reference to a chart of her height and weight available in the clinic files.

Her social worker and the nursery school staff were also criticized. Miss Gun Wahlstrom, the social worker, failed to tell the school about the care order on Jasmine. In this way she failed to realize the useful monitoring function of a school in such circumstances, the report says.

Although the school staff subsequently noticed erratic attendances which coincided with periods of Jasmine's worst injuries, the teachers were "unable to appreciate the absence's significance in a child of pre-school age."

But independent checks could have been made, the report adds.



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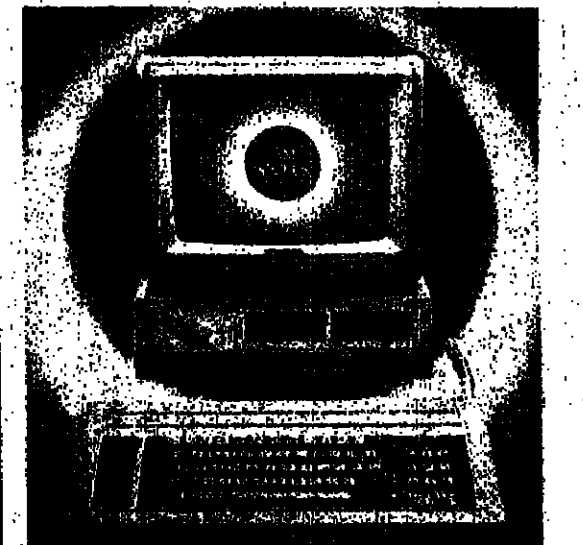
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Alliance set high poll price on resources

The Alliance would insist on more resources for education and better access to courses for all over 16 in any negotiations with other parties to form a government after the next election.

This was signalled at the weekend by Mrs Anne Sofer, who chairs the SDP's education and training group, at the end of an Alliance conference on education in Bristol.

A third "non-negotiable" - returning power to local authorities - was urged by Mr Jack Ainslie, Liberal chairman of Wiltshire County Council. But there seemed to be less support for that, probably because a good many of the audience of 90 were teachers who were more concerned with getting things done than with who did them.

The localist versus centralist debate surfaced repeatedly at the conference. How, for instance, to reconcile a national reform of the curriculum and assessment with a much more positive approach to central/local relations? Or a move to tertiary colleges with respect for local circumstances (love of sixth forms)? "We are in danger of contradicting ourselves," more than one speaker said.

But the central issue of the day, casting a pall over this as over almost every other meeting on education, was the teachers' pay dispute. Many of those present - teachers, parents, councillors, business executives - could see no way out of the crisis under this Government. Lasting disruption and long-term ill-effects were their gloomy predictions.

This was despite the attempt at spiritual uplift made by Clement Froud MP, Liberal education spokesman, in his "keynote speech". Urging a return to the "French Revolution" of the 19th century, he said that teachers should be given more money to win back their goodwill, not to buy a contract. Indeed, he poured cold water on the whole idea of a contract specifying duties in detail and on teacher appraisal, preferring to leave questions of quality to a self-regulating professional body.

There were two ways of running schools, Mr Froud said: the French method of paying by the hour, with quite separate pastoral and lunchtime arrangements, and the much better British collegiate system where there was a genuine relationship between teacher and pupil. Teachers who were now for the first time free to have lunch in the pub or go home to their families.

Biddy Passmore reports on the Alliance education conference in Bristol

at 4 o'clock would be difficult to tempt back to the collegiate system.

He made it clear, however, that there was no chance of a return to Houghton pay levels, which would cost £9 billion (an estimate later challenged as rather on the generous side, whereupon he amended it to "somewhere between £3 billion and £10 billion depending on the time of day").

Mrs Sofer discreetly distanced herself from Mr Froud's "no-strings attached" approach. There was a case for clarity on what teachers' duties were, she stressed, although she too had reservations about precise requirements on hours because they would induce a "clocking on and off" mentality.

And it became clear during the day that most speakers wanted teachers to offer concessions in return for higher pay. There were also repeated pleas to the unions to put their own house in order and speak with one voice, a timely reminder when a discussion group on the dispute nearly degenerated into an unseemly squabble between NUT and NAS/CWT members.

One possible way out of the present Burnham stalemate came from Jonathan Witter, a Liberal MP from Burnham, who said that the Prime Minister on the spot.

"Our real enemy at the moment is Mrs Thatcher," he said. "The Alliance position should be that governments are elected to decide on priorities and this one has decided on defence, with education at the bottom." The Alliance should ask parents which priorities they preferred.

The group decided that members of the Burnham employers' panel who supported the teachers should go with union representatives to ask Mrs Thatcher for more money in exchange for specific undertakings from teachers on a new contract and conditions of service involving assessment. For the longer term, it endorsed

Alliance policy of a review body for public sector pay. This would compare teachers' pay with that of other professions ("which professions?" someone asked bravely, but received no reply).

The second Alliance conference on education, may have been gloomier in tone than the first, but it was also marked by a more positive sense of realism. There had, after all, been notable Alliance triumphs since that meeting, with a chairman and deputy leader of a county council there to prove it. The day-to-day experience of running authorities, with the prospect of more elections in the near future, was always present to sharpen up woolly generalities.

Being the party group in the middle has its problems, however. Mr Froud, in his opening speech, had warned against advocating change for its own sake in order to create a distinctive Alliance policy - and urged, for instance, an end to the Liberals' blind commitment to save all small schools. But Mr Mike Bruce, a teacher, said there was also a danger of producing proposals indistinguishable from, say, those of the Labour Party.

Little danger of that on at least one issue - private schools. Both Mrs Sofer for the SDP and Jack Ainslie for the Liberals were united in a "no abolition, no subsidy" approach - with Mrs Sofer suggesting an alternative to abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme. It could be turned into a scheme based solely on boarding need rather than academic excellence, she said.

Compulsory religious education and the daily act of worship also seem to be safe with an Alliance government. A panel of four speakers, including Mrs Sofer and Mr Ainslie, argued that religious education could be valuable if taught properly. And their views of the daily act of worship varied from warm support for the practice, especially in primary schools, to a feeling that it was not worth the disruption of abolishing it.

Summing up, Mrs Sofer declared herself cheered by the day's proceedings. "I always am when the two parties meet together," she explained. "There are fierce and bloody battles but they never divide along party lines."

And, after next year's joint SDP/Liberal assembly in September, all policy documents will be prepared and published jointly so it will have to be true.



Parental contributions can fundamentally alter professional decisions.

Susannah Kirkman examines DES guidelines on children with special needs

New profiling role offered to parents

Parents of children with special educational needs are to be more actively involved in decisions about their children's future.

The DES is to issue local authorities with guidelines to help parents draw up "profiles" of their child. These will be used by professionals as part of their assessment of the child and its educational needs.

The guidelines encourage parents to describe their child's progress; they are asked to comment on features like their child's behaviour at home, its relationship with brothers and sisters, its favourite activities and its general health.

There is also an opportunity for parents to say when they first thought things were not "right", to mention their particular worries and to give their views on the best educational provision for their child.

The guidelines have been described as "a major milestone" in making parents partners in their children's education by Mrs Philippa Russell, senior officer of the Voluntary Council, for Handicapped Children, and a member of the working party which drew up the guide.

Other members were Mr Freddie Green, formerly HMI staff inspector for special education and now director of education for the Spastics Society; Mrs Sheila Wolfendale, a lecturer in educational psychology at the North East London Polytechnic; and Mrs Pauline Wright, a parent of a child with special educational needs.

The group was concerned that the 1981 Act had failed to involve parents in the assessment of children's special needs. "Many parents feel isolated and alienated, while many professionals feel the lack of a suitable framework for parental involvement," Mrs Russell told a seminar at the National Children's Bureau in London last week.

Sections 5 and 7 of the 1981 Act, which describe the procedure for assessing a child and for drawing up a statement on his special needs, give parents the right to contribute written evidence on their child.

But few authorities have given parents any advice on how to prepare their submission, and DES circulars have told "treated parents" as "compliant" - others still excluded parents from case conferences and forced them to wait for professionals to find them

the "tablets of stone".

Mr Green said he was not criticising L.e.s.s. involving parents was "an enormous undertaking." Nevertheless, the parents' contributions could fundamentally alter professional decisions, so L.e.s.s. had to create the time for parents to be able to participate. "The future of the Act depends upon it," Mr Green insisted.

He complained that too many professionals wasted time over assessments because they were unwilling to revise traditional practices. Mrs Wolfendale suggested that professionals needed in-service training to develop their expertise in working with parents. They should learn counselling skills and should get out of the habit of regarding parents as passive clients, she said.

Mrs Wright, the mother of an autistic child, said that L.e.s.s. should provide an established point of contact for parents. Parents of children under five often did not want to accept that their child was handicapped and were reluctant to join private support groups for advice.

L.e.s.s. should also prepare parents for the letter proposing to assess their child, which might be the first time that they had to accept that their child would never be like its peers. Mrs Wright suggested that parents should be shown a draft letter first.

And they should receive training and practical help in formulating their written contribution to their child's assessment.

● The Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children has written to Sir Keith Joseph, urging him to reconsider his rejection of proposals for a national advisory committee to safeguard the interests of children with special educational needs.

The council has now set up a special action group to press their case. A report from the council published in July 1984 suggested that the advisory committee should monitor the implementation of the 1981 Act, promote research and development and offer advice to ministers.

But the Education Secretary has said that "the responsibility for implementing the 1981 Act rested with Government departments, with ministers and with HMI inspectors."

In a letter to Mrs Philippa Russell, the council's senior officer, Sir Keith claimed earlier this year that an additional agency would run the risk of confusing lines of responsibility.

Susannah Kirkman reports on the National Foundation for Educational Research annual conference in London

Recruitment problems on TVEI

More than half of the schools involved with TVEI have had difficulties recruiting enough subject teachers in the main TVEI areas of computing and information technology and business studies and technology.

According to a national survey carried out by an NFER team evaluating TVEI, over 50 per cent of heads of schools taking part in the project also complained about the late delivery of equipment for the scheme and said that its introduction was hindered by the failure to complete building alterations on time.

Other obstacles were created by

having to arrange supply cover for teachers attending in-service training courses, problems caused by the teachers' industrial action and the short time allowed to launch the project.

Despite improved links between schools and FE colleges, heads said that differences in attitude between school and college staff had sometimes made liaison difficult.

Contact between different schools had also increased; many were now sharing in-service training, teachers, resources and support staff, and were organizing work experience jointly.

But timetabling arrangements, covering for absent teachers and the teachers' action had again caused some problems.

There was some conflict between the different staff involved with TVEI. School co-ordinators appointed from within the school tended to clash with deputy heads over timetabling and curriculum changes. And project co-ordinators appointed by the L.e.s.s. to oversee the implementation of TVEI found that heads were often wary of interference from outside. They "feared invasion of the traditional sovereignty which they held over their

school", according to the NFER research.

Heads also said that the administrative demands of TVEI had placed an extra burden on their schools.

But they praised the impetus TVEI had given to curriculum change and to new teaching styles. TVEI had helped to motivate teachers and had relieved the pressure on them by providing the resources for extra staff.

Not surprisingly, most heads welcomed the influx of extra resources. Yet they also appreciated other benefits such as the improved contacts with industry and employers.

16-plus will fail pupils - Hargreaves

The GCSE will not adequately develop pupils' personal or social skills or sufficiently motivate young people, according to Dr David Hargreaves, Chief Inspector of the ILA.

Dr Hargreaves told the conference that it was a mistake for the public examinations system to leave motivation and the encouragement of the abilities to work independently and with others to "less prestigious" forms of assessment, such as records of achievement.

The ILA had taken the view that the GCSE was "too little, too late". Dr Hargreaves said. The authority was now developing its own modular courses for fourth and fifth year secondary pupils, based on the "unit credit" accumulation system. "Unit credits" record pupils' progress in each module and take into account their motivation and achievements in personal and oral, as well as academic skills.

Although the GCSE was concerned with the practical as well as the theoretical, it would not allow continuity and progression for candidates who failed to score very high grades, said Dr Hargreaves. The new exam had not come to terms with recording the achievements of all pupils.

Instead of going back to the fundamental purposes of assessment, the GCSE had stemmed from the need to merge GCE and CSE and to improve them, Dr Hargreaves said.

Nevertheless, the SDP's proposals for modular courses assessed through profiles, and many alternative assessment schemes at both local and national level, would ensure that there was "life after the GCSE", Dr Hargreaves suggested. Methods of assessment such as records of achievement and



David Hargreaves: No progression graded tests would have to converge with the GCSE, probably by the end of the century.

Dr Hargreaves stressed the importance of relating curriculum development and changes in assessment to teaching and learning methods. Education could not be improved by a "zealous concentration" on assessment alone.

New forms of teaching and learning were more likely to increase pupils' commitment and to improve assessment procedures themselves, he said. Teachers should also encourage pupils to assess themselves. Young people should be able to diagnose their own strengths and weaknesses, a more effective way of learning than if the diagnosis rested with the teacher. Pupils could then give teachers feedback and help them to improve their teaching. The capacity to cope with failure was an inherent part of learning, said Dr Hargreaves.

Home computers dubbed boys' 'scientific toy'

Home computers are becoming more of a boy's scientific "toy" than a girl's, according to research presented at the conference.

Dr Wendy Keys, senior research officer for the National Foundation for Educational Research, found that when 14-year-olds were asked whether there was a computer in the home, 51 per cent of the boys said "yes", compared with only 27 per cent of the girls.

She told the NFER conference: "It seems that this new 'scientific toy', the home computer, may be stereotyped as masculine."

She said familiarity with the computer was becoming essential for scientific and other careers.

"Clearly many of these girls will be at a disadvantage compared with boys if they wish to follow a scientific or technological career."

Her findings indicated, she said later, that it might be the boys who were asking for computers as presents and not the girls.

Her research paper *A study of science education in English schools* confirmed girls are still not as good as boys at science and that the older they get fewer girls than boys study the subject.

She also found the proportion of pupils taught science by women drops as pupils grow older.

While 56 per cent of 10-year-olds were taught science by women the proportion fell to 31 per cent for 14-year-olds, and to only 14 per cent for A level physics pupils.

Grasping the nettle on accountability

A better balance between accountability to the nation and to the individual is within the grasp of the education service. If it lets this slip away, the consequences would be serious for both scholarship and industry, Carolyn Dempster writes.

This was the warning issued by Sir James Hamilton, former Permanent Secretary at the DES, in his presidential address to the conference.

Sir James focused on accountability in education on both the micro-economic scale and in the extent to which the education service is responsible for anticipating and meeting the nation's needs for skilled young people.

In the first instance, the Jarratt Report formed part of the puzzle in the attempt to reconcile accountability to the state and the individual, he said.

It was important that the report which received a frosty and sceptical reception in certain university sectors, should be viewed as a source book of good practice aimed at much at changing attitudes as changing methods.

Much of the initial dismay which greeted the report stemmed from two sources: first the view that the report was an unnecessary detailed blueprint for efficiency; and a poor blueprint at that - and second, having been prepared by a group biased towards industry, the report was intent on imposing irrelevant and inappropriate industrial methods on the universities.

"It is a pity that in all the brouhaha about performance indicators and the minutiae of accountability, the final exhortations of the Jarratt report have been so often overlooked - namely that the attitudes of mind of the staff and the will of the institution to achieve the necessary change are crucial."

This was the heart of the message from successful industry to the education service, emphasized Sir James. Accountability on the Jarratt model can only take root if the people involved are convinced it is of long-term benefit to them and the institutions they service.

Although the remarks were aimed at higher education, they could equally apply to all levels of education, he added. There was not much point in walling about not getting the cream of young talent into industry if the city offered them richer rewards and an easier life, or complaining that art was preferred to science and technology, if the arts continued to be linked more imaginatively to intellectual superiority.

People needed to be persuaded that parental attitudes, better science in primary schools and a more flexible secondary curriculum reversing the early trend towards specialization were central to accountability to the nation.

The policy of primary science needed to be pushed and pushed if it was to succeed, in secondary education, it was crucial to keep young people out of pre-ordained pigeon holes, at the post-school level, a system of credit transfer should be developed more rapidly to encourage flexibility and a move should be made

away from increasing specialization in first degree courses.

Above all, the education system needed more and better continuing education. It was strange that the method for correcting short-term deficiencies in the market for skilled people should remain the "Orphan Annie" of education and industry, said Sir James.

In addition, the thesis for accountability set out in the Green Paper on *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s* and House of Lords report on Education and Training for New Technologies was liable to be undermined and misunderstood in the education service because of the lack of fun-

approach to manpower forecasting.

"The argument that the nation needs more engineers is unhelpful unless accompanied by an analysis of the quantity and quality that may be required," Sir James pointed out.

"The occasional cavalry charge to try and meet a perceived need in education could be justified, but a better plan was required if the service was to meet the demands of industry and commerce."

It was also necessary that people shake off prejudices and equivocal attitudes to the humanities and technology, scholarship and industry if the fundamental concepts of accountability were to be embraced without eroding the basic philosophy of educational aims.

NUT branch calls for Labour win

by Richard Garner

The largest branch of the National Union of Teachers has broken with its union's traditional non-party political stance and issued a clear call for a Labour victory in next year's local government elections.

In its own manifesto for next year's first direct elections to the Inner London Education Authority, the 13,500-strong Inner London Teachers' Association of the NUT says: "It is vital that we campaign for a sweeping government defeat which can only be achieved by a massive Labour victory..."

"ILTA believes that Londoners should start the fight now to elect an ILTA that will refuse to co-operate with any cuts in London's education service. Only in this way can there be a united fight to achieve a massive Labour victory in the ILTA elections."

Mr Fred Jarvis, NUT general secretary, said he would need to study the ILTA document - and the union would be issuing guidelines on electoral law to all NUT branches in time for next year's local government elections.

He added: "Whilst the ILTA officers appear to be talking about a big Labour victory, I don't think it necessarily amounts to going out and saying vote for Labour."

The ILTA document also calls for the phasing out of voluntary schools, claiming: "In order to foster a harmonious multiracial, multiethnic and multicultural society, it is essential that maintained educational provision should be undenominational."

Abolition of l.e.s.s. proposed

by Virginia Makins

The abolition of local education authorities, national controls over independent schools, and other radical changes - are needed if secondary schools are to survive the present crisis of confidence among the public and teachers themselves.

In a new book, Mr John Sayer, of the London Institute of Education's Management Unit, describes the components of the present secondary crisis, and proposes solutions.

He argues that the whole organization of teaching and learning in most secondary schools is counter-productive, promoting "systemized selfishness". Examinations at 16-plus are "a national disgrace", and totally unfit for the legitimate needs of their users, he said.

His solutions are both educational and managerial, and are designed to break down all kinds of divisions - between ordinary and special education, state and private schools, further and adult education, teachers' parents and other professionals.

Local education authorities would go, and resources would be managed at town or district levels, by local community councils with responsibility for all education and social services.

What Future for Secondary Schools? by John Sayer, Palmer Press, £6.95 paperback.



Sir James Hamilton

Announcements



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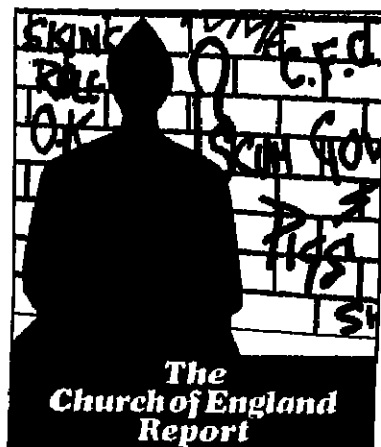
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The Church of England report on the inner cities:
Bert Lodge looks at the role expected of Christians in the future of urban schools

Parents urged to turn from private sector



The Church of England Report

Inner city Christians, particularly the clergy, should think twice before sending their children to private schools, the Church of England report says.

And the clergy generally, but especially bishops, should distance themselves from the independent sector, it adds.

The commission says all church schools in urban priority areas should be communally schools run by local people playing a large part.

A survey showed one in three of inner city vicars sent their children to a private school once they reached secondary age, the report notes. Indeed, clergy put the education of their children as "one of the important factors to be considered" when deciding whether to accept an inner city parish.

The commission comments: "It has been pointed out to us in evidence that the support given to their church schools or other local schools by the clergy and laity is greatly increased if they send their own children to them. Words of support can seem hollow if by their decisions about their own children they indicate that they think there is a better education to be found somewhere else."

The Church of England is guilty in the matter of division and inequality in the education of children, says the report. "There is no direct financial Church support involved but the private sector is much more richly endowed with chaplains and with church connections (over one-third of all clergy have attended private schools)."

The commission goes on to regret the number of priests who send their children to private schools. Under present circumstances there may be

good grounds for choosing this option, but it is a matter for regret in Britain in 1985 that the option should seem so much more attractive than the other. It is acknowledged that involvement in education must be a priority for church people. "But it has been put to us in evidence that many of them, especially bishops, spend a disproportionate amount of time at the schools attended by only 6 per cent of the population of the country and rarely visit the schools which educate the other 94 per cent."

"We ask bishops, clergy and lay Christians therefore to examine themselves on the use of their time in this respect."

Perhaps the bishop's diary symbolises a deeper and wider problem, suggests the commission. "The evidence from many sides is that private schools in Britain have been divisive of the nation to an extent far beyond their apparently small numerical importance. . . . Few of us would deny that

their separate life exacts a heavy toll from the maintained schools."

This is done in three ways: by draining off the political energy from the state sector of the better-off well-educated parents; by attracting able teachers to higher salaries and better working conditions and by removing motivated children from schools where they could contribute to all-round standards.

Ecumenical schools should be explored as a possibility at secondary level including the idea of Anglican-Roman Catholic schools in urban priority areas. These would offer a significant proportion of places to children of other faiths. The foundation governors of church schools should consider whether the composition of the governing board adequately reflects the ethnic constituency of the catchment area.

The Church's existing division over what church schools are for, surfaces in the report when reference is made to

many teachers in church schools complaining about local vicars. While the teachers say they are trying to find a constructive approach to what is a tense multicultural situation "some clergy insist on a narrow view of the school as a place for Christian instruction, regardless of the wishes of those being instructed."

The report comments: "This attitude can only lend strength to the wish by members of the Muslim community to have their own separate schools."

At the same time, in a nod to the significant body of belief among churches members that church schools are indeed for transmitting the faith, the report concedes: "There is a possible clash between the aims of church schools and the need for racial harmony and justice. Some church schools may not have the motivation and resources to develop the linguistic and multi-faith skills necessary to nurture children of other faiths because of their view, which we understand, that their highest priority is to teach the Christian faith."

The report goes on to say that church schools in the inner city should be turned into community schools. Then they could play a significant part in developing "second chance" or "return to learn" classes for the unemployed or redundant or just for those who want to pursue learning for its own sake.

Members of the commission commend a church school they visited in Salford where out of a staff of 14 the two community teachers spend half their time in school and half in the community. An excellent home reading scheme had been developed involving more than half the parents listening to their children read for five minutes a day.

The report remarked: "We have to say to parents: do not be threatened by the politicians nor anyone else much read its 400 pages (as its authors kept complaining in television and radio discussions)."

For the document is not, primarily, an attack on the deficiencies of government policy in relation to the urban deprived, or a set of prescriptions for remedying them. A considerable part of it is about the attitudes and provision of the Church itself, its clergy and its laity in relation to the urban priority areas (UPAs) - the inner cities and the outlying housing estates.

The issues it raises range from the education, training and pay of the urban clergy and the quality of the Church's youth work to the possibility of a new radical theology developing from the urban communities themselves.

Sir Richard disclaims any attempt to devise novel solutions. "What we have tried to do is to establish the truth about urban deprivation and to present it to the Church and the nation," he says. "Our analysis demonstrates a tremendous and growing inequality between those who are trapped in these urban areas and the rest of us; and we say that as Christians we cannot accept this."

"I happen to believe that in addition to the other compelling reasons for action, the waste and dereliction in these areas stands in the way of the economic progress of the country as a whole."

Nevertheless, the report makes a series of uncompromising statements of principle which challenge current

as small-scale intervention. The report says there has been a net decline in central funding to the areas because local authorities have lost far more through reductions in the rate support grant than they have got from schemes such as the Urban Programme.

The report calls for an increase in the total rate support grant and for a higher share of it to go to the UPAs, at the same time as a substantial increase in the Urban Programme. Job-creating capital investment in the infrastructure and housing should be increased as advocated by the CBI and the TUC.

The commission adds, however, that more Government money is not the sole answer. There needs to be a combined action by local authorities, the business community and the voluntary agencies to support new enterprise and projects.

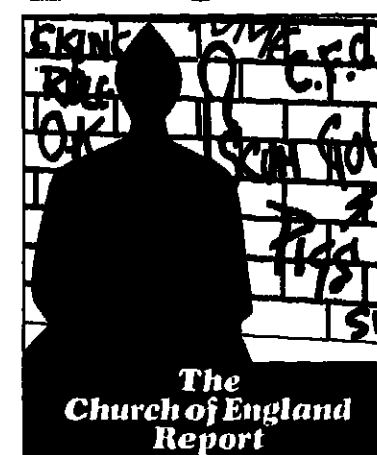
The commission urges, in particular, "a team" between government and the voluntary organizations under which the agencies would increase their activity in the inner cities in return for assured long-term funding.

Meanwhile, the Government should expand the community programme (which provides a year of work for the long-term unemployed, at present mainly the under 25s) to a total of 500,000 places and relax its pay limits and eligibility rules.

Government help to the inner cities to

The Church of England report on the inner cities:
Mark Jackson examines the overall conclusions and assesses the sections on the young, training and jobs

Dereliction and waste in way of economic progress



The Church of England Report

While Conservative politicians raged all week against the Church of England's report employers quietly welcomed a part of it.

The Confederation of British Industry said the report "underlined the timeliness" of the CBI's own package of proposals - spelled out last week - for the Chancellor to divert up to £1 billion from tax cuts next year to capital spending on schools, hospitals and housing, to training, and to tackling urban dereliction.

The CBI's support for the report's general approach to tackling unemployment was not altogether surprising. The chairman of the Archbishop's 18-strong commission is Sir Richard O'Brien, former head of the CBI education and training committee who became chairman of the Manpower Services Commission on the CBI's recommendation.

But the tone of the reactions to the report suggested that neither the politicians nor anyone else much read its 400 pages (as its authors kept complaining in television and radio discussions).

For the document is not, primarily, an attack on the deficiencies of government policy in relation to the urban deprived, or a set of prescriptions for remedying them. A considerable part of it is about the attitudes and provision of the Church itself, its clergy and its laity in relation to the urban priority areas (UPAs) - the inner cities and the outlying housing estates.

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Nevertheless, the report makes a series of uncompromising statements of principle which challenge current

Education, training key to jobs

Education and training are identified as a key requirement for the generation of jobs in the urban priority areas.

The report says: "It remains vital that all those living in the UPAs are given the best possible opportunities in education and skills training to take advantage of new technology and new job opportunities."

It seeks to demonstrate that market forces and individual self-interest cannot produce enough jobs to arrest the decline of the area. The encouragement of small business can help, but only to a limited extent. It says work sharing is seen, for the most part, as impracticable.

The report proposes a two-pronged attack - measures specifically concentrating on the urban priority areas in parallel with national policies directed towards reducing social and economic inequalities.

Government help to the inner cities to

The dangers of alienated youth with nothing to do or to lose

Alienation of the urban young is closely related to unemployment which, together with their deprivation, is a crucial factor in drug abuse, says the report.

Despite the big differences the commission found between communities in various cities, it got a clear overall impression of sizeable groups of young people trapped in urban priority areas who are denied equality of opportunity or life chances and only gain attention when they become a threat. The churches, the report admits, have little or no contact with them.

"It is difficult to exaggerate how alienated these young people are from adult ideas of how young people should behave; from their peers of different social classes; from agencies they think of as acting on adults' behalf and not usually in the interests of young people," says the commission. It cites as examples of these agencies the police, schools, and the church itself.

Unemployment is the most significant worry for adolescents, both those who are already unemployed and those about to enter the labour market. The increase in youth unemployment, it says, has disrupted the normal position of young people and extended their time of dependency on their families. But above all it has removed one of the ways in which young people value themselves.

Other factors in alienation they list as responsible for the apparent breakdown of order in the priority areas are the changing pattern of family life, the

anonymity of the large city, the design of local authority housing, and the conflict between the pressures of advertising and of having little money.

"We have heard first hand of the fear of the destructive potential of young people. We have sensed the latent violence as we have walked along the streets; we have seen groups of young people with nothing to do, nowhere to go, and nothing to lose."

The report pays tribute to detached youth workers who provide the principal youth service contact with the urban young, despite some shortcomings in their practice; "pioneering" initiatives such as information kiosks, drop-in centres and homelessness projects; and crisis schemes which provide the young homeless nights with a family.

The report says young people need recreation premises they can make their own. If youth work premises are unattractive they go for pubs and commercial discos - "as even many 13 and 14 year olds are now doing". "The commercial exploitation of younger teenagers and their early introduction to a bar culture challenges the standard and quality of the provision of facilities through both the statutory and voluntary sectors of the youth service."

The commission deplores as inadequate and unrealistic the Government's response to the Thompson report which is the offer of pump-priming grants for training and experimental projects to voluntary organisations.

But it brackets the Church with the Government in its condemnation: "We have seen little evidence that those in authority in Church or state have as yet been seized, despite the Thompson report, by the seriousness of the alienation with which most of those who work in the youth service in the UPAs are familiar."

The youth service, it says, increasingly operates as a safety net, trying to compensate for shortcomings in other fields.

The commission is worried that the action of some authorities in shifting responsibility for the youth service to their leisure services departments could put too much emphasis on leisure pursuits rather than social education and personal development.

The Church's responsibility for youth work lies primarily at the parish level, says the report. It says that the Church's role has changed over the years: many local churches are now providing club nights restricted to the children of their own members instead of the youth clubs open to all which they ran in the 1950s and 1960s. "The task of sustaining open youth clubs has proved just too tough," says the report.

● Last week the General Synod rejected a report on youth work policy from its board of education. The synod believed that it was too concerned with theological questions and did not confront the urgent issues affecting young people.

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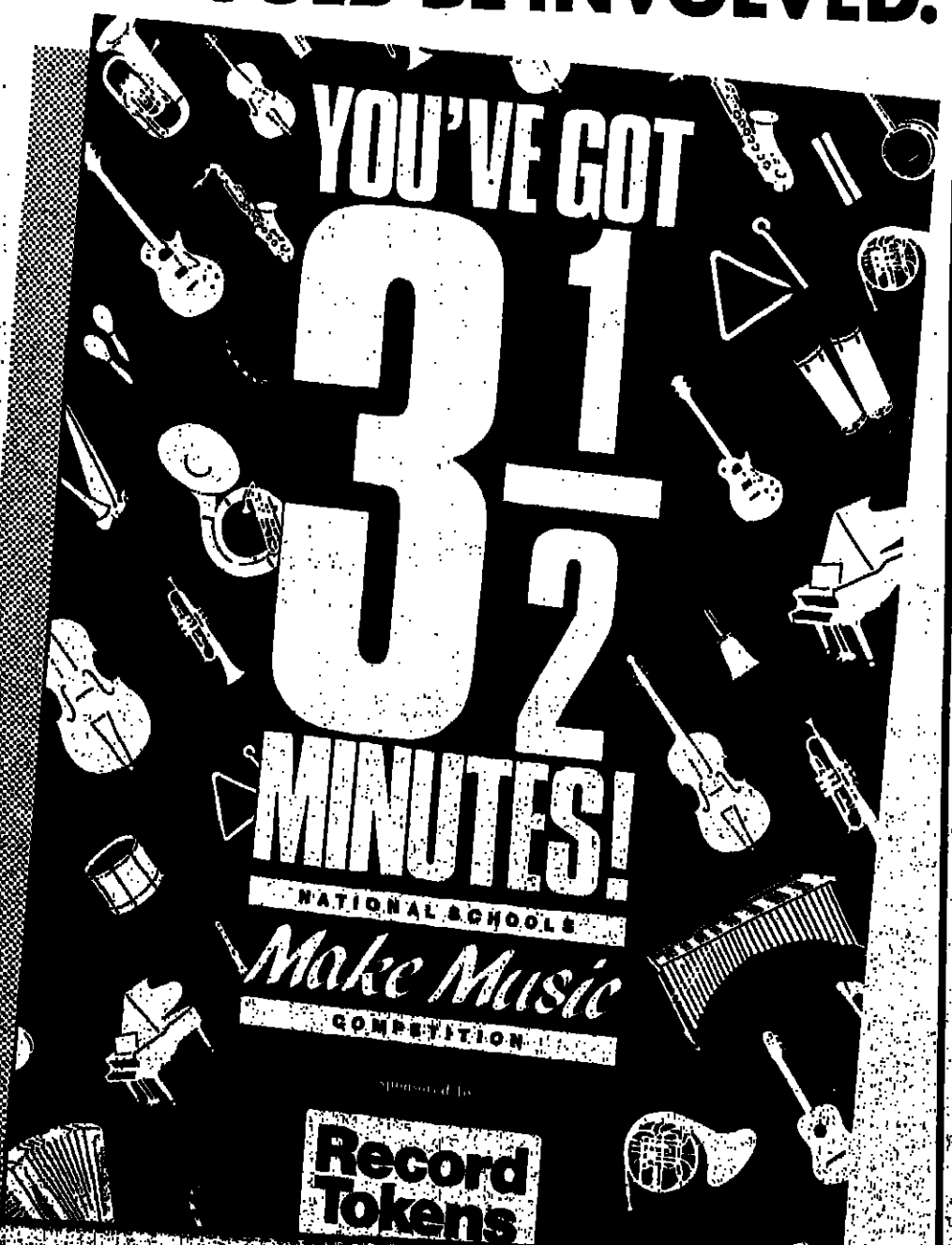
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Unilever Educational Liaison

Pupils encouraged to concentrate on linguistic skills rather than literature

Boards switch to more 'practical' language A levels

by Susannah Kirkman

Radical changes in A level modern languages syllabuses will encourage pupils to concentrate on linguistic skills rather than literature.

Soured on by some language teachers, the practical approach of 16-plus exams and by the increasing number of higher education institutions offering applied language courses, several exam boards are now introducing new A level syllabuses. The switch to courses which develop fluency and confidence in foreign languages has also been inspired by the greater need for languages in industry and commerce.

And the pupils themselves have begun to reject the old-fashioned, literary approach. For many candidates, traditional A level courses have proved "a turn-off", according to Mr Alan Moys, deputy director of the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research.

The number of candidates taking A level modern languages had declined over the past 10 years. Research carried out by the Joint Matriculation Board also showed that only 10 per cent of pupils with a pass in A level French went on to do a degree course.

The JMB decided that it wanted to cater for a wider range of candidates and the Board is to replace its traditional A level exams in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian in 1988. Literature will be optional and will only be worth 25 per cent of the final mark for those who choose it. The literature paper will encourage teachers to use the foreign language when teaching literature, as candidates must answer questions on 20th century literature in the language.

Pupils who do not want to take a literature exam may write three essays, which will be internally assessed, based on their own reading programme. For one of the essays, candidates may use their own experience abroad.

They could keep a detailed diary of their stay, or carry out their own investigation.

And comprehension tests will be transformed. Candidates will listen to tape recordings by native speakers. Another pioneering board, the Welsh Joint Education Committee, has already scrapped its old-style modern language A level. WJEC candidates may choose between a literature paper and an "extended language" option, which only tests candidates on two set texts. But it is no soft option: these pupils must be able to translate a recorded passage by native speakers, write a summary in the foreign language and give a talk in the language on one of eight "socio-economic" topics.

New syllabuses introduced by the Associated Examining Board still include some literature, but pupils may also choose other topics such as the media, the problems of minority groups or a political theme.

Subjects for the oral exam are also topical. They include conservation, the energy crisis, European unity and, for pupils taking Italian, the work of any Italian film director.

The London and Oxford University Boards have offered alternative A level syllabuses based on language for several years, but the more traditional literature syllabuses are still available. Mr Moys says that the new syllabuses take-up for the more revolutionary courses. Despite the many pioneers, there were still a lot of traditional teachers who wanted to teach literature, he said.

New Developments in A level Language Teaching - CILT Information Sheet no. 10 is available free from CILT, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London N1, 4NS, but applicants must enclose a large a.s.e.



Sea watch: 15-year-old Mark Hayes learns the ropes from Coastguard officer John McDermid at Shoreham, Sussex. Mark was among 56 youngsters from Palmer School, Brighton taking part in a week of work experience under their Technical and Vocational Education Initiative course.

The pupils had previously spent four terms studying computers, technology and going on an outward-bound course in Wales. Other postings during their work week saw pupils broadcasting on local radio, taking police, cycling and working with antiques.

In addition pupils worked in offices, factories, garages and hotels. Employers interviewed the pupils before their week began and will now report on their progress.

The scheme covers four schools and two colleges in East Sussex. About 60 pupils of all abilities can take part in each of the fourth, fifth and sixth forms.

Picture: David Bennett

Basic geography exam under fire

by David Lister

A new basic geography exam to be introduced by the Associated Examining Board will be regarded as a step backwards by geography teachers, it was claimed this week.

The AEB is launching the exam next May following complaints from employers, particularly in the travel and tourism industries, that teenagers' knowledge of locational geography is insufficient.

But Dr Tony Binns, joint honorary secretary of the Geographical Association, said: "We are concerned that constraints are being put on geography teaching by employers and we are also concerned that this will lead to rote learning rather than a proper understanding of the processes. Kids might learn what the capital of South Africa is, but will they actually understand about apartheid?"

Dr Binns said that emphasis was still put on people and places in geography teaching, but agreed that they did not have the pride of place that they did 20 years ago.

Among those who wrote to the AEB were the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) training board. Its survey of 20 well-qualified youngsters training to be travel agents showed that four believed Manchester to be in Scotland and one thought Killarney was in Greece.

ABTA training board education and training officer, Mr Kevin McGrath said: "All these 20 had travelled extensively and were obviously motivated to be in the travel trade, but their results were quite typical. We find that teenagers leaving school have minimal locational skills. In fact, we now assume all knowledge of such skills in our trainees and run our own, very successful, youth training courses, which bring them up to scratch very quickly indeed."

The AEB already runs "back to basics" exams in English, arithmetic and a number of other subjects. They are designed for 16-year-olds, but are being taken by older children in sixth forms and on Youth Training Schemes. About 60,000 children took them this year and they are proving very popular with industrialists: Marconi, Command and Control Systems Limited, for example, has decided to use the AEB basic exams to replace some of its own entrance tests.

The AEB tests stem from the board's decision to bring closer links with

employers than are usual with existing boards.

Mr George Turnbull, the AEB's industrial liaison officer, said: "There is no doubt that we have a generation that has passed through school, many of whom cannot spell or punctuate or master other basic skills. In all the tests we have started we went to employers and asked them what they wanted pupils to know, and it often proved to be things that are not emphasized in O level and CSE syllabuses."

"For example, many employers tell us that school-leavers don't know what an inch or a foot is. The schools may have changed over to the metric system, but much of industry has not. Our basic English test examines students' ability to take a message over the telephone, another thing employers have complained about."

"Travel agents tell us that some of their trainees know that India has a rainy season but they don't know where India is."

The new geography exam, to be launched next May, will test map reading skills as well as awareness of where places actually are. Candidates will, for example, be asked how to find their way round the London Underground using a Tube map.

One question will ask candidates to fill in the gaps in the description of a pop group's UK tour.

Employers' complaint that leavers do not have a basic grasp of geography.

Asian children set the pace in achievement

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris on success among the new immigrants

There is a new "model minority" in American schools - the children of Asian immigrants. They are studying harder, achieving more, and going on to earn higher salaries than their white counterparts.

Statistics released by the US Census Bureau show that 96 per cent of Japanese-American children complete their high school education, 94 per cent of Koreans and 89 per cent of Filipinos. The completion rates for whites is 87 per cent, and for blacks 74 per cent.

When it comes to college, the Chinese lead the way: 60 per cent of those between the ages of 20 and 24

enrol at university, with the Japanese not far behind at 48 per cent. Even the Asian group with the lowest higher education achievement, the Filipinos, have a better university attendance rate than all the non-Asians.

The recent wave of Asian immigrants is transforming the US immigrant population. They now number more than 5 million, and are expected to exceed 10 million by the year 2000.

Over the past five years they have accounted for 48 per cent of legal immigration, compared with 12 per cent during the 1960s. A third of new Americans are now entering from Mexico or Latin America, and only 12 per cent from Europe.

In the educational field, the only Asian immigrants to fall behind the general standard are the children of the Vietnamese "boat people", who mostly come from poorer backgrounds. It is not expected that they will stay down for long.

Union issues guidelines on AIDS admissions

After weeks of protests and boycotts by parents, and a lengthy court battle which has still to end, the furor caused by a New York School Board decision to allow a seven-year-old child with AIDS to attend school has subsided.

The child has now been found not to be suffering from AIDS after all, but only carrying the antibodies to the disease. This means there is only a small chance that he or she will develop the illness at all.

Although hearings have finished, the court is still considering its decision on the case.

The anonymity of the child has been preserved, and the location of the school in question is not known. Neither is it known whether the child is attending school.

Meanwhile, the National Education Association, America's largest teachers' union, has produced a set of guidelines on the conditions under which children and teachers who have been diagnosed as having AIDS should be admitted to school.

But in the atmosphere of panic which the disease has engendered across the country, it remains to be seen whether anyone will take much notice. Although there have only been 19 known cases of AIDS among children under 13 in the United States, three-quarters of whom have been under school age and 120 of whom have already died, school districts from California to Connecticut have already decided to bar such victims from the classroom altogether.

The NEA guidelines suggest that infected children should be treated on a case-by-case basis, and should only be allowed in class after agreement by a team of doctors, school officials and parents, that it is safe for them to do so.

The union recommends that they should not be permitted to attend school if they show visible open sores, or if they are believed to be prone to vomiting, spitting, or biting their classmates. Similar conditions are laid down for teachers suffering from AIDS.

But the union's lawyer, Mr Robert Chazin, has admitted that they leave many questions unanswered.

He points out that although the union recommendation that AIDS children excluded from class should be given instruction in isolation, it doesn't say who should teach them.

The guidelines are intended to cover not only those who actually have the disease, but also those who have been infected by the virus and are capable of transmitting it although they have not developed any symptoms. In such cases, where a school employer has reasonable cause for suspicion, the NEA recommends that a medical test should be mandatory.

However, "reasonable cause" is not taken to include known homosexuality, and school officials are specifically excluded from asking the sexual preference of a student or teacher. The phrase is intended to cover cases where a spouse is known to have the disease, or if a school employee has recently given birth to a child with AIDS.

On the thorny question of anonymity, the guidelines recommend that the identity of those suffering from AIDS should not be publicly revealed, but should be disclosed to those who have to work with them.

Inquiry into teaching quality

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's new Parliamentary education and science committee has announced that its first inquiry made under recently increased powers will be into the quality of teaching in schools.

It will consider: ● Whether clear standards exist (or could be established) by which the quality of teaching can be measured; ● How such standards and their implementation procedures were decided;

● The assessment of judgements involved and their implementation; ● The possible setting of codes of professional and personal performance.

● Means of ensuring efficiency and flexibility sufficient to meet the demands of changing needs. ● The ways to attract the most effective recruits into teaching and ● The provision of effective initial and continuing training.

The committee aims to complete its work by April or May 1986. "Teachers have nothing to fear from a positive inquiry into the quality of teaching," Mr Noel Scott, the chairman, said.

But Post Primary Teachers' Association President, Mr Tony Steele, said it would take all the skills of the committee chairman to stop it turning into a witch hunt.

Terry Power



Executed: Luke Khumalo and his wife Jean

Britons set to remain at 'murder mission'

ZIMBABWE

Mike Williams on the staff who defy death threats

Most of the eight British teachers at the Thekwane mission high school in the Matabeleland region of Zimbabwe are expected to stay on at the mission despite threats against their lives by anti-government rebels who killed the headmaster and his wife on November 25.

The teachers - among them Ms Alison Keen and Ms Cathy Ricketts of Voluntary Service Overseas - were evacuated with other expatriate staff to the regional capital of Bulawayo the day after a large group of unidentified gunmen surrounded the school at night and executed the headmaster and his wife, Jean.

A private volunteer teacher, Jos Douthwaite, was shot three times by the gunmen, apparently after he went to investigate the gunshots that killed the Khumalos. Mr Douthwaite was reportedly in satisfactory condition at a Bulawayo hospital at the weekend.

His older brother, Mark Douthwaite, had been a volunteer at the school previously, under an arrangement made between the Thekwane school and Kingswood school, an inde-

pendent Methodist boarding school, near Bath.

Kingswood has had links with the mission school for 20 years, and has arranged for four volunteers to work at the school over the past three years. Harrow also has links with the school.

Mr Ken Worger, the administrative officer of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe which runs the Thekwane mission, said staff there were mystified by the attack and the threat against the white teachers.

Hundreds - possibly thousands - of Matabeleland residents have been killed or tortured since rebels and government security forces began playing a bloody cat-and-mouse game in the region in mid-1982.

Zimbabwean security forces have promised increased patrols of the area but residents doubt that the mission can be made safe from another attack.

border with Botswana, which Zimbabwean authorities say the rebels use as a safe base.

In 1977 a band of Joshua Nkomo's Zikwa guerrillas kidnapped Mr Khumalo and several hundred Thekwane students into Botswana as forced recruits for their fight against white Rhodesian rule. Some of the students decided to stay, but Mr Khumalo hit the headlines when, following an international outcry, he led the remainder back to the mission.

Mr Paget ran on a one-man platform which called for the opening up of the union. He claimed that the federation had been controlled by a small clique of orthodox left-wingers who wanted to remain in power at all costs.

Union picks first woman president

AUSTRALIA

Luis Garcia reports on a crucial election campaign

For the first time in its history, the New South Wales Teachers' Federation - the largest and most vocal teaching union in Australia - has elected a woman as its president. She is Ms Jennie George, who has been described as both a feminist and a progressive.

Ms George won 68 per cent of all the votes cast to defeat easily the incumbent, Mr Ivan Pagett, a self-styled moderate whose two-year term as president has been plagued by industrial unrest.

Ms George's victory comes at a crucial period for the federation. In the past 18 months, the union's power and influence have declined considerably and its once-privileged relationship with the state government has abruptly ended.

The newly elected president has already admitted that there is much dissatisfaction among members over the way the union is run (only about 35 per cent of the 70,000 members bothered to vote) and said she would work hard to redress this problem.

Her other immediate priorities would be to halt the rapid decline in morale among teachers and to establish a "meaningful process of negotiation" with the state government and Mr Rodney Cavalier, the NSW Minister for Education, regarded as a fairly tough negotiator.

During the election campaign, Ms George promised to give the federation experienced leadership and "a new direction". She strongly criticized Mr and Mrs Pagett.

Ms George, who was backed by a coalition of left-wing members and women's groups, spent at least \$225,000, about £12,500, in her campaign, while Mr Pagett is believed to have spent about \$45,000.

Mr Paget ran on a one-man platform which called for the opening up of the union. He claimed that the federation had been controlled by a small clique of orthodox left-wingers who wanted to remain in power at all costs.

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Jane Marshall reports from Brussels on two major education projects being planned by the EEC

Erasmus plans to broaden HE students' minds

The European Commission wants to see a tenfold increase in the number of university students in the Community studying in other member countries.

Mr Peter Sutherland, commissioner responsible for education, told a conference on higher education cooperation in Brussels last week that a programme, known as Erasmus—the European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students—was about to be unveiled. The plan is to increase the number of students spending study periods abroad from the present “deplorable” figure of less than 1 per cent out of 5,000,000, to at least 10 per cent by 1992.

Since the Community's programme of co-operation between universities began in 1976, 30,000 students have studied in other member countries through about 500 joint study programmes. But while the programmes had evidently been a success, they had been “on a microscopic scale and on a precarious year-to-year basis”, he told the conference of 400 academics, stu-

dents and European MPs.

He said it was expected that Erasmus would be adopted and passed to the Council by the end of the year.

Low funding is one of the reasons the joint study programmes have made little impact. Professor J. Sperna Weland, former rector of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, said it had been suggested that the Community had spent a thousand times more on rape seed and sunflower seed rulings than it had on the subsidization of joint study programmes. To date, only £3 million had been invested.

Professor Weland strongly argued for funds to be made to the joint study programme for three or four years instead of for one year which “makes long-term planning impossible”.

He had found too that information about the Community's programme did not always get through. But, paradoxically, the problem was not necessarily lack of information: “Heads of universities receive considerably more information than they can possibly manage; the result is that



Peter Sutherland

many are not very well informed.”

Governments and industry also needed to be kept in touch, he said. A recent draft UK Government planning paper on higher education made no mention of European exchanges, and other government agencies did not include a “European dimension” in their policy and planning. Professor Weland added that he feared other Community states were probably guilty of the same omissions.

The conference recognized that mobility and exchanges in higher education became less attractive to students if there was no formal recognition of their time and experience spent abroad. It rejected harmonization of the vastly differing systems and standards of higher education throughout the Community, and the introduction of a European credit transfer. But there was discussion about European certificates specifically for students involved in joint study programmes, though questions of which authority would award it and what its value would be remained unanswered.

COMETT's arrival time still in doubt...

EEC employment and education ministers were expected to adopt a long-awaited education and training for technology programme at a meeting in Brussels yesterday.

However, despite a strong general commitment from member states to COMETT—an action programme designed to foster co-operation between universities and industry—some questions had still to be resolved this week.

One issue was whether, as the Commission proposed, the committee which would help it would be drawn from independent experts and be purely consultative; or, as all members except the Irish and Italians insisted, it should be composed of state representatives who could take control of its budget.

Another disagreement was over the amount of Community financial support. While seven member states agreed with the Commission's proposal for 80 million ECUs (£48 million) to be spent on COMETT's first four years, the United Kingdom, along with France and Germany, wanted to spend less.

Instead of the programme running for seven years, as the Commission proposed, all the countries except Greece and Italy thought COMETT should initially run for four years with a council decision before the end of the period on whether it should continue.

Failure of this week's meeting of the Social Affairs Council to adopt COMETT

would hold it up until the next council meeting in June 1986—half-way through the year in which the Commission has scheduled the programme to begin.

Co-operation between higher education and industry also featured in another item on the Social Affairs agenda—the European Commission's guidelines for employment, education and training for youth.

This was an opportunity for the council to discuss the proposals published in the Commission's memorandum for International Youth Year published in July.

At a time when one in four of the Community's 48 million 15 to 25-year-olds are unemployed—a rate three times greater than that for adults over 25—the Commission put forward in its memorandum proposals to gear education and training to new technologies, to generate more jobs for young people and to increase their mobility. It called for action to help the disadvantaged young, and to promote equality for girls, young disabled and migrants.

The two commissioners concerned with youth policy were to speak on the memorandum to the council.

Although not mentioned in the paper, it was expected that ministers would discuss the proposal of a youth action fund to give support to youth initiatives.

Art education is much more than learning skills

Sir—I have the misfortune to teach a subject on which everyone, how ever ill-informed, feels qualified to pronounce; but this misfortune is far outweighed by the privilege of thereby being associated with many of the most dedicated, hard-working, and competent members of the entire teaching profession.

While, therefore, I am not altogether surprised at the rash feat of extrapolation which leads Paul Johnson (Personal Column TES, November 22), apparently on the basis of a single visit to “one of our big London art schools”, to widely condemn the teaching of art in this country, I do feel compelled to refute his amateurish onslaught.

Without having seen for myself the particular art school work which has attracted Mr Johnson's displeasure, I will of course not attempt to defend it; nor will I now say much about work in art schools generally, since I am not in regular contact with it. But I will say that I work with an annual intake of 30 post-graduate teacher-trainees who are a credit to the schools of art and university departments from which they come. They are neither short of skills nor of the determination to impart skills to the pupils they will teach. They are also well enough educated in their field to realize that the notion of skill, when applied to art, cannot be simply defined by the kind of

attempts at perspective were infantile; and many of Cézanne's canvases appear so divorced from nature (just think of those awful bathers in the National Gallery) that they would hardly earn an O level pass.

There is no single, simple route to artistic distinction. There never has been, nor, I hope, will there ever be. It is the central purpose of art education to demonstrate this.

The function of art in schools is precisely that of all other subjects in the curriculum: to educate. If, therefore, to be to do with far more than the transmission of practical skills and certainly with far more than “using the imagination”. Of course it must—and in most of the schools I visit, it does—include these aspects. But it is also to do with understanding art; with developing in pupils a critical appreciation of the art of other times and other cultures and with helping them to see their own artistic endeavours in this wide context. It is a context which must, for example, include (as well as classic African prototypes) the work of obscure African craftsmen whose carvings helped, via Picasso and others, to spark off what Mr Johnson writes off as the “bizarre and unassessable manifestations” of the modern movement in art.

Art has probably never in the history of British general education been taught more vigorously, with more by more knowledgeable teachers than today.

By the classic standards which I suspect are Mr Johnson's criteria, Turner's drawing of the human figure was embarrassingly clumsy. Also, according to these criteria, Van Gogh's use of colour was crude and undisciplined; Degas broke all the rules of pictorial composition; Giotto's

the figure; selecting and mixing colours; planning and composing a drawing; mastering perspective; learning to look at nature.

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the figure; selecting and mixing colours; planning and composing a drawing; mastering perspective; learning to look at nature.

Georgian values

Sir—What a rare experience it was to read Paul Johnson's criticism of art and design education. Mr Johnson answers the question how should we teach the young to draw and paint, by firmly stating: “If we want to know how art should be taught, perhaps the best answer is we should teach art as Turner learnt it”.

It needs an extraordinary mind to advocate not simply a return to Victorian values but to Georgian ones. It now becomes clear to me that the study of philosophy should not progress beyond Kant, no progress was made in literature after Jane Austen, while all music after the time of Beethoven can be ignored. Why stop with art? Doctors need learn nothing of developments after Lister, nuclear physicists can forget all about Dalton to say nothing of Rutherford; clearly the industrial and technological revolutions should have been halted in their “Golden Years” and today's scientists could, like Turner, rejoice in the age of steam.

Just one small point which does rather undermine Mr Johnson's thesis: I wonder if he is aware that Turner died in relative obscurity at a time when the general public and most critics were unable to accept his decidedly avant garde paintings? In his day Turner was himself accused of “drawing a blank” or, at least, a contemporary critic described one of his more famous paintings as a “picture of nothing and very like”.

JOHN STEERS
National Society for Education
in Art and Design
7a Figh Street
Corsham
Wiltshire

ANTHONY DYSON
Senior Lecturer
Department of Art and Design
University of London Institute of Education
and
Chairman
National Association for Education in the Arts

Minimal training

Sir—I read Paul Johnson's article on art education with interest. While I share his concern about the nature of art education within fine art departments I think he is wrong to assume from his observation of art colleges that the teaching of art in schools must be the same.

Clearly, many fine art departments are run on the assumption that the students are part of the contemporary art scene or the avant garde—from my own experience while being a fine art student I would say that many students are actually pressured into regarding themselves in this way.

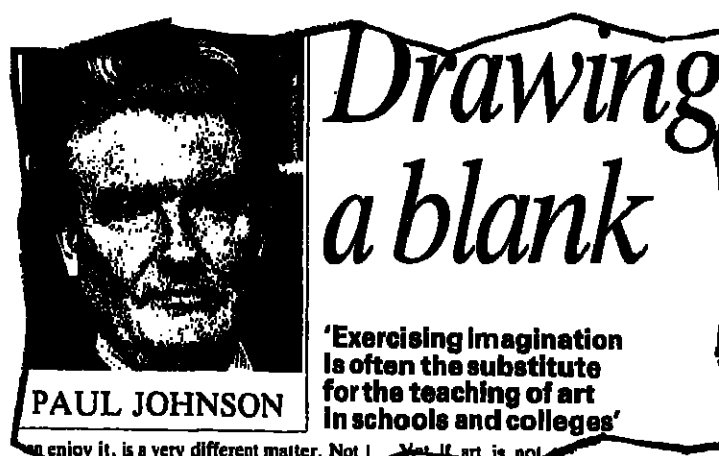
While I disagree with Paul Johnson about modern art—I do not regard it as a fraud—I would agree that it is not necessarily the most useful art education that a student or prospective teacher could receive.

Indeed, while I was a student the fashion was for minimal art and conceptual art, styles that do not necessarily assume the existence of an art object at all.

In fact, of course, at secondary school level, in contrast to art colleges, the teaching of art is firmly rooted in observation and experience. I would suggest that the purpose of art education in schools could be defined as enabling the children to synthesize aesthetically and intellectually a great many disparate observations into single, harmonious wholes.

Finally, copying prints and plaster casts was probably the dulllest way of learning about art—only those artists with a greater vision managed to survive it without themselves in turn merely producing more dull pictures.

PJ BRUDDOCK
The Larches
Loom Lane
Radlett
Herts



PAUL JOHNSON

Drawing a blank

‘Exercising imagination is often the substitute for the teaching of art in schools and colleges’

enjoy it, it is a very different matter. Not if it is not

New possibilities

Sir—Judging by the absurdity of Paul Johnson's suggestion that art education should step backwards a century or so, and still produce artists receptive to and responsive to issues of contemporary society—while knowing him to be a learned man—one can only assume a wilful misunderstanding on his part of the relationship between art of any significance, and the place and time out of which it grows.

That the teaching of art is problematic is not in question, and there is much current debate amongst art educators as to the way in which this might best be done. However, he does less than justice to art education in this country by implying that an “imaginative free-for-all” is the basis on which the considerable achievements of recent British art and design have been built. I suggest that he might even go and look at art departments in many schools to find work of impressive quality and sensitivity, and evidence of skills in a wide range of materials and techniques.

He must also, of course, realize the impossibility, for any young person, or indeed, anyone seriously interested in the arts, of ignoring those achievements of the modern movement which he so summarily dismisses. They are the touchstone of contemporary art of all kinds, for they have developed out of modern society, and have a relationship which cannot be artificially formed by substituting a wishful return to past values and achievements, notable as they undoubtedly are.

As an art teacher, part of my job is to create, in young people, an awareness of, and, hopefully, an understanding and enjoyment of art of all kinds, past and present—for there is much to value in both—and not to demonstrate, by a dismissive selectivity, an approach in which conservatism takes on a new definition, not cultural or historical, but medieval, as a condition resulting in a progressive closing of eyes and ears to new possibilities.

TED FAIRCLOUGH
Head of Art
High Green School
Pack Horse Lane
High Green
Sheffield

Awards opposed

Sir—In the front page lead (TES, November 22) on the planned revision of Distinction and Merit awards, Biddy Passmore writes that “only the right-wing National Council for Educational Standards and the Independent schools” favoured the original proposals.

It should be pointed out that the Girls' Schools Association representing girls' independent schools strongly and unequivocally opposed the Distinction and Merit scheme as being ill-conceived and divisive.

MARGARET SPURR
President
Girls' Schools Association
107 St Paul's Road
London N1

‘Fall’ explained

Sir—Your table of GREs for 1986-87 showed only two authorities with an apparent reduction on 1985-86, namely the most urban in the country, the ILEA, and the most rural, Northumberland. This apparent reduction has caused a good deal of consternation and dismay here and requires an explanation.

Northumberland is the only county whose police operations are shared with a metropolitan area (Tyne and Wear). Under the new GRE arrangements, police authorities receive a separate figure. In effect, therefore, Northumberland's GRE for 1986-87 is about 7 per cent up on 1985-86 when spending on police has been excluded.

The financial constraints on the authority remain considerable, but not quite so frightful as your table would suggest.

CHRISTOPHER TIPPLE
Director of Education
Northumberland County Council

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Loosening the lycée pupils' bond

FRANCE

Mary Follain on the new ‘Bac’ that will allow more freedom to specialize

Lycée pupils will begin preparing next September for the new *Baccalauréat* introduced recently by M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, Education Minister, which will allow them more freedom to specialize in certain subjects.

However, it will still not be possible—as in England—for a student specializing in arts subject to give up mathematics altogether. Indeed they will continue to have two hours of maths a week in their final year at school.

Nor will they specialize as early as the English. In their penultimate year they will be able to choose in the academic “Bac” between three branches: arts; economics; and maths and science, each offering two or three possible programmes of study, or series.

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What will remain of the Ministry's new reform after the expected right-wing election victory next March is uncertain. The Ministry is certainly rushing to feed as much as it can into the system before then and, since M Chevènement's sweeping revision of the curriculum and his emphasis on effort and patriotism have proved extremely popular in the country, much of it is likely to stick.

In any event, a move away from the traditional encyclopaedic idea of French education towards greater specialization has been gaining momentum for some time—if only because it is becoming impossible to go on adding to the heavy lycée curriculum in the days of the *lycée généraliste*.



Jean-Pierre Chevènement: his curriculum reforms have proved extremely popular.

Antoine Prost—in his report on lycées commissioned by former Education Minister M Alain Savary—drew attention to the overloading of the curriculum. A more recent one from the *Collège de France* was also highly critical of the encyclopaedic lycée studies.

With Sir Keith Joseph introducing more general studies into the English system and M Chevènement experimenting with specialization, it looks as though the two systems will eventually take on a greater similarity but it will take time. M Georges Lafont, an associate of M Chevènement who has been closely involved in the lycée reform, says that they had chosen because of the French attachment to a general culture.

He said: “We are not ripe for it yet, but in a few years time, France may well have a common core of subjects with additional options, as in the Geneva International ‘Bac’.”

Throughout France next year some classes will be trying out a similar system of five basic subjects plus two optional and if successful the system could be introduced generally.

The biggest obstacle to any real choice between the various academic “Bacs” is the overriding preference shown by the prestigious *Grandes Ecoles* and more selective universities for the mathematical Bac C, no matter what course of study the candidate applies for.

They will have to be persuaded that Bac C candidates are not necessarily the best and M Chevènement has entrusted Madame Joëlle Séverin, headmistress of the *Ecole Normale* in Sévres, with the unenviable task of persuading them to give more consideration to candidates in the arts and economics series.

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How the status quo in science fails our children

Sir—I have read with great interest the correspondence in your pages about the strengths and weaknesses of physics and integrated science in Hertfordshire. By and large readers are party to a local argument but it can be construed as having an important national dimension. Mr Parker has given some (in his words) "damning" statistics about changes to integrated science.

Although these do, of course, refer only to two individual years in one school and it would be easy to attack their use, I prefer to believe Mr Parker and allow him to be worried about the school in which he teaches. My worry is different: it is nationwide and, eloquently, I think, expressed by these statistics gleaned from APU figures (see table).

Apart from the worrying gender differences, at least two issues arise from a study of such figures:

1 More than 85,000 youngsters each

Student Subject Choices in Years 4 and 5
England, Wales and Northern Ireland
(APU Data) (1980)

Subject choices in science	Percentages	
	Boys	Girls
Three subjects	14	9
Two subjects	24	17
One subject	54	60
No subjects	7	14

year go out from school having done no science over the last two years of compulsory education;

2 The vast majority of these children have been faced with the usual choice of physics, chemistry and biology as Mr Parker and some of your other correspondents seem to be advocating. They have then chosen appropriately

and usually in accordance with what they feel about their science education thus far. Clearly children's views of their science education are not totally in accord with some of your correspondents'.

Now I am not suggesting that a rethink of 14-16 science education would solve all this at a stroke, but what is perfectly clear is that the present system is failing 80,000 children totally every year, to say nothing of failing the bulk of children in terms of breadth and balance in science education. I hope those who are advocating complete retention of the status quo can tell the rest of us how they propose to solve these national problems.

M G MICHELL
Director
Secondary Science
Curriculum Review
London W1

aspects of integrated science courses and the skills-based, problem-solving approach on which they are based.

J Osborne then tells us that we have not got the teachers to teach the course. The fact that many chemistry/biology teachers cannot correctly tell you what centrifugal force is surely indicates the failure of our present separatist system and makes a case for integrated science in the future. That there are teachers prepared to teach one branch of science without a sound knowledge of the other branches is in itself indicative of present attitudes.

Finally, D Jackson states that physics must be available at O level so that girls can choose it. As a separate subject physics will only be chosen by a minority of girls at GCSE level. Integrated science as a core subject ensures that all girls continue with physics and hopefully encourages its choice as a possibility for A level study. If she feels

that the physics content of integrated science is comparatively insignificant a simple exercise of syllabus comparison will prove otherwise.

That all pupils should follow a broad, balanced science course is surely indisputable. Inevitably, curriculum demands by other subjects will restrict science teaching time below the 20 per cent suggested maximum. Integrated science must represent the way ahead and hopefully the chemistry, biology and physics specialists will be adaptable enough to become real science teachers with a special interest in one section of the subject. Reality may prove otherwise.

R BURTON
Science department
John Hanson School
Croydon
Surrey



Liverpool's financial plight is affecting more groups

Extra duties

Sir—The article "Liverpool debt hits teachers" (TES, November 15) rightly makes reference to groups of teachers who are not receiving their correct salaries as a result of the economic situation in Liverpool. I am, however, concerned by the omission of yet another group.

Although relatively few in number within the city, teachers who undertake additional duties, in the form of extra hours, perform essential tasks and, without their contribution many of the residential establishments in the city would cease to operate so smoothly. For their labours, teachers should receive an additional duties allowance of £2,577 per year.

In Liverpool, however, they are still being paid at the old rate of £1,996 per year, despite the fact that a new national agreement was reached in September 1984. Each teacher on this allowance is now owed a considerable amount of back pay which, in the present economic climate, they cannot expect to receive in the near future.

In addition, those teachers who carry out sleeping-in duties are being paid £6.63 per night instead of the now nationally accepted rate of £10.59 per night. Residential child care workers, however, are being paid the "new rate" for exactly the same duties.

Head and deputy heads in residential schools have also not yet received the increase in their residential allowances agreed in May of this year. As a result of this I now find myself, as deputy head of a residential school for maladjusted boys, receiving less salary each month than in my previous post.

duties allowance.

The effects of the present situation in Liverpool are not, of course, simply financial. There is a far more significant effect on the degree of stress staff are being placed under, and upon the morale of all those concerned with the running of the schools.

As a direct result of the present economic sanctions placed on the schools we have been unable to order even essential stock and ordure we have had to borrow bedding and items such as exercise books from other establishments, buy soap powder for our laundry from our own pockets and even buy sets of essential textbooks from our salaries.

Since September schools have had to maintain the service on a week by week basis. In the past week this has been reduced to a day by day basis as we wait to hear what is to happen if the money finally runs out. The setting of a legal budget at the end of this week may well save the city from bankruptcy but will it produce the amounts of money now required to get the city services back to normal?

Councillor Hutton has insisted throughout his campaign for the city that services would not be cut. Has he, I wonder, any idea of the effects which the policies he supports have already had upon the standard of those services?

MEBESWARICK
13 Sunnybank Cottages
Holmehurst
Birmingham

the physics content of integrated science is comparatively insignificant a simple exercise of syllabus comparison will prove otherwise.

That all pupils should follow a broad, balanced science course is surely indisputable. Inevitably, curriculum demands by other subjects will restrict science teaching time below the 20 per cent suggested maximum. Integrated science must represent the way ahead and hopefully the chemistry, biology and physics specialists will be adaptable enough to become real science teachers with a special interest in one section of the subject. Reality may prove otherwise.

R BURTON
Science department
John Hanson School
Croydon
Surrey

On behalf of NAS/UWT staff at Heathfield High School
Cradley Heath
Warley
West Midlands

On target

Sir—Your article on engineering recruitment (TES November 15) contains an error of fact in respect of the polytechnic. South Bank, one of the eight polytechnics which has received money in the second part of the Government's £43 million Switch programme, has achieved its National Advisory Body "first year" recruitment target for 1985/86, enrolling 21 per cent more full-time equivalent students than in 1984/85.

TERRY HARVEY
Deputy Academic Registrar
South Bank Polytechnic
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Out of sight

Sir—I was interested to see that both the Secretary of State for Education and the Chairman of the Conservative Party voted against allowing television cameras into the House of Commons.

I was left wondering how the leading proponent of teacher appraisal could justify voting against giving the electorate the means of appraising the performance of MPs. I was also left wondering why the recent Disraeli Lecturer missed the opportunity to expose to public view, the ill-discipline and bad manners of many MPs, as evidence of the shortcomings of our education system.

What a lesson in double standards!

A FUSSELL
10 The Close
Kington St Michael
Chilpenham
Wiltshire

Do as we say

Sir—The news that Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph voted against television in the House of Commons caused us some amusement.

Could it be that these two, who were so keen that teachers' performance be assessed, are actually themselves frightened to reveal their own way to day "performance" in Parliament to public assessment?

Is this yet another case of "do as we say not as we do?"

R H BRUTON
On behalf of NAS/UWT staff at Heathfield High School
Cradley Heath
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Horses to water

Joseph O'Connor finds 'fundamental weaknesses' in Croydon's new guide for parents.



'The confusion of what is taught with what is learned'

"How children learn is as important as what they learn," is the heading of the next paragraph. This is the most important fact of all: The two cannot really be separated. The aims of the primary schools listed on page 5 are beyond reproach, but there is no indication as to how they are to be achieved. This is absolutely crucial, but beyond the scope of the booklet. Without it, the document does not mean very much.

In planning the curriculum all schools aim to ensure that among other things: "As far as possible the way the children are taught individually, in small groups, or as part of a whole class, matches their individual needs" and "As far as possible learning is rooted in the pupil's personal experience."

Learning is always rooted in the pupil's personal experience anyway. It cannot be anything else. Teaching is not. Teaching is rooted in the teacher's personal experience. How the two overlap is the important thing and this link is how learning takes place.

The stated objectives cut the ground away from the rest of the document which is about giving outside judgements on what "should" be achieved, unrelated to the student's individual experience, and then trying to assess ground that constantly shifts. It has a built-in self-destruct mechanism whereby the more you try to apply it,

just as well, otherwise we travel down the opposite road which ends in authoritarian testing of set attainments, and evaluation of schools and students by central dictat, unrelated to their particular personalities and individuality.

The rest of the booklet lists curriculum objectives by subject and suffers from the same difficulty of being so vague as to have little meaning.

The fundamental flaw is the confusion of what is learned with what is taught. Treating them as the same leads either to impossibly vague objectives, or to becoming bogged down in unrealistic details which are impossible to implement.

Assessment is impossible in either event. What is taught can be monitored. What is learned cannot, especially in the hidden curriculum.

Education is like a black box. What goes in one end, (the teaching) can be fairly easily monitored at least with regard to facts. What emerges at the other end cannot be assessed in terms of what

of the individual student's learning process. Until learning is distinguished from teaching, and until attention is focussed more on how learning takes place rather than trying to spell out what "should" be learned, curriculum and assessment will get nowhere.

What we think children "should" learn by age 11 (or any other age) will no more affect the outcome than saying we think the average educational examination attainment at school "should" be higher than one Grade 4 pass at CSE per person.

Joseph O'Connor teaches in Croydon.

Let there be darkness

Parents find out much more when schools are left to publish their own brochures, Alan Weeks finds.

I recently surveyed brochures from 560 primary schools in various parts of England and Wales. The most significant finding to emerge is that where local education authorities have decided to give their schools guidelines on what information to provide for parents and then bear the costs of production (or, at least arrange publication in bulk) the result is that parents receive far poorer information than from schools who do-it-themselves.

Of the 560 brochures, 195 (35 per cent) were produced under local authority guidelines and auspices. They were far more likely to be printed than other brochures (45 per cent compared with 7 per cent) though only one in five authority sponsored brochures had hard covers, half as many as the rest.

The average length of schools' own brochures was 15.5 half A4 pages (brochures on A4 size paper were counted double) while the average length of l.e.a. brochures was 8.1 half A4 pages. This difference may be explained in part by the fact that nearly half of A4 brochures were printed in more compact type. But even with a ratio of three printed words to every two on the typescript page, and allowing for the few printed non-l.e.a. brochures, the difference in average length is still considerable (15.9 pages to 9.6).

So much for quantity — what about quality? Some were very poor, lacking essential details about educational aims, the curriculum, discipline, and matters concerning parents and governors in spite of the regulations made under the

1980 Education Act specifying that information provided to parents about schools must include "particulars of the curriculum", "education as respects sexual matters" and "general arrangements as to school discipline".

Some 43 of the 195 local authority brochures failed to mention sex education at all — a clear breach of the regulations. The regulations also require details of special arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, but over a quarter of the 560 brochures examined failed to mention them, including 40 of the 195 l.e.a. brochures.

Some 63 brochures contained no statements whatever about educational aims. Most of these (39) were produced under the guidance of local authorities. Moreover, if one computes the number of statements about educational aims, the authority-inspired documents were again at the bottom of the league with an average of two statements per brochure compared with 3.5 in the rest.

One brochure in five lacked details of one or more of the structure of studies, the methods of teaching used, special needs, computer education or sex education. In this respect, local authority brochures were no better nor worse overall — only one l.e.a. brochure was completely lacking in any information at all about the curriculum — but there were disproportionate numbers of them with other deficiencies.

For instance, 7 per cent of l.e.a. brochures had no account of the structure of the curriculum (compared with 3 per cent of the other brochures).

and 8 per cent had the structure but no other details of the curriculum (compared with 4 per cent of school-produced brochures).

On details of the ways schools maintained discipline, 84 brochures produced under l.e.a. guidelines (43 per cent) had nothing (compared with an almost equally bad 40 per cent of others).

The purpose of school brochures, as envisaged by the 1980 Education Act, is to inform parents about schools and an essential part of this, especially in primary schools, is offering advice to parents about helping their children at school. It is thus disquieting to discover that 377 of 560 brochures contained no such advice and disturbing to discover that these included most of the l.e.a. brochures (87 per cent compared with 57 per cent of others).

Of the 195 l.e.a. sponsored brochures 154 (79 per cent) did not name parent governors compared to 56 per cent in the rest of the sample.

There results suggest that schools must devise their own brochures if full and rich information is to be provided for parents. Presumably, they could still call on expert help from local authority advisers if they need it. The findings in my survey could perhaps be more acceptable if schools whose brochures were produced by local authorities supplied supplementary information for parents. But there is little evidence to suggest that this happens.

Alan Weeks is a senior lecturer in education at St Mary's College London.

Age of reason

David Budge looks in on the university which is helping to keep British pensioners of sound mind.

Solomon Freedman claims he gets a sore throat twice a week. Every Monday and Thursday to be precise. "Those are the days I attend my politics classes," the retired Post Office worker added mischievously. "I always end up arguing. Leaves me hoarse for the rest of the day."

He and his wife, Rita, who are both in their late sixties, belong to the London branch of the University of the Third Age (UTA), a remarkable self-help organization that is helping to meet the largely neglected intellectual needs of Britain's pensioners.

Solomon attends classes three days a week - he is also studying Modern Hebrew and London history. But Rita is even keener. She has a class every weekday. "It gets me away from Solomon," she said. "No, seriously, before I joined UTA I was getting very frustrated. Everything seemed to end in bingo. Now I'm signed up for creative writing, psychology, drama and sketching. It's wonderful value for £9 a year."

The Freedmans had travelled to King's College, London University, to join 300 other UTA members at the branch's second anniversary celebrations. Their chairman, Professor Brian Groombridge, director of London University's Department of Extra-Mural Studies, told the gathering that UTA was of national, in fact international importance. It was not an empty boast.

Three years after the concept crossed the Channel (the French have had their own *L'université du Troisième Age* since the early 1970s) there are some 85 branches in Britain. Like the others, the 640-member London branch is affiliated to an umbrella organization, the Third Age Trust, but is otherwise fiercely independent and ultra democratic.

Some members attend occasional lectures at institutions such as Birkbeck which have been supportive of the UTA. But most of the activity goes on in the 40 self-programming groups which are led by "co-ordinators", members who happen to have a specialist knowledge of a certain subject (when new members join they are asked not only what they want to learn but what they can teach).

The members themselves determine what will be taught and in some branches this can range from jam recipes to geomorphology for the UTA interprets "university" in its "looser", original sense - a community of scholars.

As Eric Midwinter, director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, once said, the UTA is also free from the tyranny of economic viability which dictates that if there aren't 15 for organ in the class folds. But equally, if a class is unpopular it is allowed to die. "We don't believe in artificial respiration," said one co-ordinator.

The current London course list includes four languages, maths and "practical computer appreciation". But it is evident that, for many members, the social aspect of the UTA is every bit as important as the intellectual one. There are weekly chess and bridge sessions and regular study trips to foreign parts.

"Our foreign trips are educational but there's also a lot of eating and wine drinking involved," said Pat Kisch, the former LBA reading adviser who helps to organize the tours. "Now we're about to start an Itchy Feet Club before we take to our wheelchairs and we're planning to visit China, France, Italy and Hungary next year."

There are also activities for energetic members who can't quite afford trips to China and, perhaps surprisingly, one of the most popular is PE. "We run around in leotards, but it doesn't look as awful as you might think," Rita Freedman said.

That remark would come as no surprise to Sidney Jones, the former head of teaching studies at North London Polytechnic who acts as the unpaid part-time administrator of the London UTA branch. He has spent 11 years researching and writing on the psychological, physical and intellectual benefits the elderly can derive from education and knows that increased self-confidence is one of them.

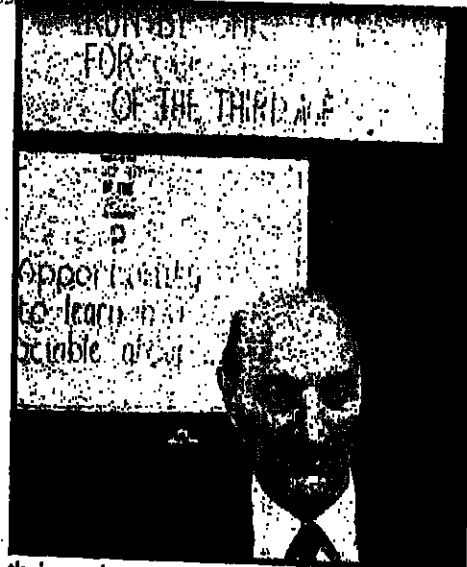
"Your self-confidence is boosted because of a feeling of achievement," he explained. "Other people come to look at you in a different light too. Elderly people enjoy UTA studies because they're not secondary to something else. The people who come to my psychology class aren't trying to be personal officers or sales managers. It's living for the moment. Furthermore, the pleasure is magnified because you're sharing the experience with others."

Unfortunately, the UTA experience is not being enjoyed by a wide enough range of people in



The creative writing class (above) has produced several published authors; below, Sidney Jones, the UTA's unpaid London administrator.

'The tragedy of old age is not that we are old but that we are young'



London. At present it's an almost exclusively white, middle-class organization. There is a substantial proportion of Jewish members but other ethnic minorities are seriously under-represented. "We have this threshold problem," Sidney Jones said wryly. "Getting them across the threshold that is."

Equally regrettable is the UTA's difficulty in attracting people from manual backgrounds who are perhaps frightened off by the word "university". But then, as he points out, the whole of adult education is short of such people. A quarter of the London UTA members are former lecturers or teachers, another quarter were white-collar workers and many of the remainder appear to be middle-class housewives - two-thirds of the members are women.

The UTA can, however, claim to have broken through one important barrier in reaching a few housebound pensioners by organizing tutorials in their homes. Sidney Jones, sadly, had to make use of this service himself earlier this year while recovering from a heart attack. But now he is back at work in the branch offices, a set of sparsely furnished basement rooms in the old Royal Free Hospital nurses' home.

The location is an oddly appropriate one for an organization that attempts to make elderly people's lives more happy and purposeful - being alongside an old parish cemetery that has been turned into a far from sombre public park. But the branch would ideally like to rent a larger property that could serve as an educational centre as well as offices. To do that they would, however, need an estimated £200,000 - a huge sum for

their reach.

In the meantime, they are scraping by on the revenue from membership fees and a few grants from Voluntary and Christian Service, BAT Industries, Marks and Spencer and BP. "We live from hand to mouth really," Sidney Jones admitted. "Of course we'd love some help from the Government but when you look at what they are doing to the WEA and extra-mural departments you realize how far down the priority list we must be."

It is not only the present Government that has neglected the educational needs of the elderly of course. Until comparatively recently it was generally thought that the rate of decline in intelligence after adolescence was so steep that investment in adult education, particularly for the elderly, was wasted.

Sidney, however, thinks this is balderdash and he has Sallotaped a quotation from Oscar Wilde to the wall by his desk:

'The tragedy of old age is not that we are old but that we are young'

"In other words, though we develop wrinkles and lose our hair we're still young inside, particularly if you're involved in something like UTA. To use the brain is to maintain it and even enhance it. What we use we keep."

Naturally, that statement has to be qualified but there is no shortage of evidence to support his general argument. Only this summer it was reported that people aged 60 to 64 were the most successful group of students within the Open University. Members of them passing all their

courses in comparison with 67 per cent of all students. Even the 65-plus age group achieved a 64 per cent pass rate.

Nevertheless, the traditional misconceptions and prejudices survive, even among some educators at institutions such as Birkbeck, which have done a great deal to advance the cause of adult education. One Birkbeck academic smiled condescendingly when I asked for directions to the UTA creative writing class in Gordon Square, Bloomsbury. "These UTA people are always getting lost," he confided. "They mean well, but... if you lose your way I'll know you're fit for the UTA too."

Hill Slavid, the UTA member who takes the class, probably wouldn't be rattled by that remark though. Having had 24 short stories broadcast by the BBC in the space of as many months he can afford to ignore those who think the over-sixties should stick to basket-making.

When I arrived, Hill, a 63-year-old retired fruit importer, was listening to one of the many elderly women in the class (19 out of 20) read a short story. She had written it as her "homework" for the week and he was reading a copy of the story as she acted out the dialogue. "I always ask for a copy of the story," he explained later, "for some people can make a laundry list sound like Shakespeare, and vice versa."

He showed the same commonsense approach throughout the lesson and his sympathetic but frank assessments - "You write very well but this style is too heavy for humour. It's like making a soufflé and putting in a dozen eggs" - seemed to be appreciated by all but one member of the class, a middle-aged woman who took exception to him reading out only an abridged version of her rather rambling Second World War reminiscences.

Her outburst disrupted the class for a minute or two but he was soon back in his stride again. "Remember that clarity and short sentences are the essence of good writing," he told them. "But that doesn't mean we want telegrams."

By all accounts, several of the UTA members who have attended his class have not needed that advice, however. They have been naturally gifted writers like himself. "One woman had a funny article on packaging published in *The Times*" he recalled as he collected up his papers at the end of the tutorial. "And another woman writes wonderful stories about her youth in a London version of Coronation Street. She speaks in an uneducated manner but she writes like a goddess. She also has phenomenal powers of recall."

Perhaps she should be introduced to a certain Birkbeck academic.

Further information about the University of the Third Age can be obtained from Diane Norton, 6 Parkside Gardens, London SW19 5EY.

The language of politics and the language of public relations are moving ever closer together. Hence the Conservative party's current obsession with "presentation". Hence Jeffrey Archer in his current role. Hence, too, the character and quality of Norman Tebbit's Disraeli lecture. It was a disappointing performance.

Confronted by camera and microphone, politicians have become adept at dropping catch-phrases and slogans ready packaged for the next (or same) day's headlines. If we think about it at all, we probably tend to assume that behind the rhetoric is usually a mind that recognizes the difficulty of political judgement and the complexities that the headlines obscure.

With the rise of "presentational" values, however, it becomes increasingly difficult for us to know whether the quality of a politician's thought is superior to its public expression. This is particularly the case when, as with Mr. Tebbit's lecture, that expression is tailored for consumption by the widest possible audience.

Mr. Tebbit's ostensible audience was of course small: those listening to him at St. Stephen's Club. One imagines, they might have been able to stomach something subtler than the slogans, half-truths, smears and insults that made up the speech.

That so much of it, however, was cast in the language of the tabloids was, one can be sure, no accident. For it is their readership that constitutes that widest possible audience to which, as he well knew, his speech would be reported. It was for them, surely, that his lecture on freedom, decency and order was "presented". To that extent, we may assume, he measured his words to appeal beneath the level of his own and his immediate audience's thinking.

However, it is impossible to imagine that a man can long remain free to think rationally for himself if he habitually delivers his apparently sincere thoughts in language as impoverished and tawdry as Mr. Tebbit's. Political thinking on this showing is rapidly in danger of being enslaved to its own presentation.

Such skills as are evident in the "presentation" of Mr. Tebbit's case have little enough to do with political thought, or indeed thinking of any kind. Mr. Tebbit uses the standard armoury of the propagandist. Doing the Tory tabloids' subliminal work for them, he makes liberal use of Biblical rhythms and echoes: "The road may be long but the destination cannot be changed" and "Thus was sown the wind; and we are now reaping the whirlwind".

No more substance underlies such flatulence than is behind his unashamed readiness to enclose the Philistines in a plain man's embrace when it suits his purpose - "Only the experts would challenge that; and the experts are, as usual, wrong" - or behind his mimicry of the tabloid cry that "the public are demanding stiffer sentences".

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Of course the route to further training is not thereby closed. Time and an employer permitting, bricklayers accredited only with modules in laying bricks in straight lines may take further modules to build corners, construct corners and so on. If these more advanced skills are required they will have profiles of achievement to show their competence to perform them. Thus advocates of modular training claim it is more open for individual opportunity, as well as being more flexible and adaptable to industry transformed by the application of new technology than rigid demarcations between skilled and unskilled work.

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With new technology, the trend now is towards a division in the workforce of 20:80. Twenty non-manual, supervisory/managerial, working with people and 80 semi-skilled manual, working with things; whether in factory, office, ship or service. The flurry of new curricular initiatives and new methods of assessment are all attempts to meet this new employment situation.

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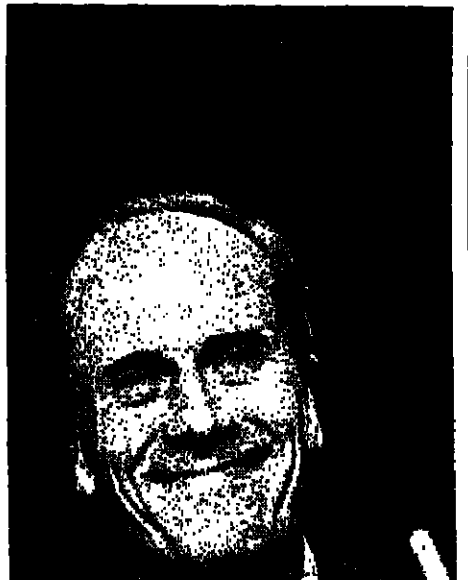
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New ways of learning and new forms of assessment, as well as the increased element of choice involved, could also enhance pupil motivation. Professed assessment of modules in particular credits achievements in a range of activities instead of marking failure in a narrow band of literary performance, as traditional exams tend to do by awarding top marks only to a few candidates.

Rather than harking back to golden ages of academic excellence, the implications of the new methods must be faced. The first step is an awareness of why and how such changes are taking place. For, like it or not, the modules are coming and they are here to stay.

Tabloid Tebbit

Smears, half truths and slogans; the Conservative chairman's recent Disraeli lecture was designed to appeal to the soft-porn pedlars he complained of, says Roger Knight.



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ing". Politicians should at least try to deal with realities. Mr. Tebbit deals in slogans. "The permissive society" was never other than a facile slogan used to encourage the tabloids' and quality of social change. Tebbit, however, exploits the glib sociology it encapsulates, laying out him with an indiscriminating abandon that it becomes one who so fiercely claims to be the protector of order and decency.

Order and decency are impossible without intellectual integrity. What sort of integrity, what sort of responsibility is it that enables a major politician to conflate bad art, bad grammar, unclear bodies, classroom disorder, family dis-

cord and soft pornography as though they had risen, conjoined, from the same evil maelstrom? It is vacuous phrase-making, high on unfocused feeling, empty of examinable content.

The crudity of Mr. Tebbit's analysis would be merely contemptible in a tabloid editorial. In a politician of his standing it is portentous. The emptiness and banality of his analysis is perhaps the greatest charge one can lay against it. Tebbit's language enables him to turn away from the real nature of what he claims to be observing. The true language of politics is a responsible language, a language that helps us to recognize the complexities of our problems, as well of course as our power to grapple with them.

Tebbit's language is irresponsible; it works through stereotype and simplification. It is not a language that can reflect or promote political sensitivity; it runs, on the other hand, readily to the promotion of travesties that can only embitter or enrage their victims.

Teachers, for instance, having supposedly presided over classroom anarchy in the "permissive" years, may now welcome a saviour in the form of Sir Keith Joseph - "who has plans to make schools places of useful learning". The arrogance is as breathtaking as the ignorance. The contempt for the teaching profession is undisguised, the casual disregard for truth and fairness palpable.

But then, Mr. Tebbit has no wish to look (or perhaps to be seen to look) too closely at any of the objects of his scorn. How otherwise could he have avoided seeing that the "soft pornography" he rightly objects to has been made respectable by the tabloids whose language he so effortlessly mimics; papers, moreover, not in general noted for their sympathy with the collectivist ethos that he supposes to have generated the pornography?

Rupert Murdoch's *Sun* is one kind of advertisement for Mr. Tebbit's vaunted entrepreneurial freedom. Only by emptying the phrases of meaning could one see *The Sun* as "enhancing the nation's quality of life" and maintaining "traditional values of order and decency".

In the context of Mr. Tebbit's "presentation" of Conservatism these phrases are in any case no more than polemical gambits. Unwilling or unable to engage in a rational analysis of the problems that beset us, he simply invokes the standard cosmetic remedies in the standard

prisons; in education, insist upon "traditional style in schools". He speaks of "the needs of the human spirit". They, no less than politics, are ill-served indeed by a language as cynical and intellectually bankrupt as that of the Disraeli lecture.

Roger Knight is senior lecturer in education in the University of Leicester and editor of *The Use of English*.

The modules are coming

Things may never be the same again, Patrick Ainley warns.

Modules are what the constituent parts of a syllabi covered by old-style examinations used to be called. In the USA they have long been the building blocks of degree courses that combine elements of different disciplines, such as literature, art appreciation and history into "Renaissance studies", for instance. They are similarly used by the Open University. However modules are not merely the parts of a whole. As defined by the CPVE Joint Board, "The term 'module' describes a set of experiences and outcomes which may be achieved through a variety of appropriate learning methods."

In new-style "assessments", like the CPVE, various modules lend themselves to "skills profiling" and are "bankable" in different combinations by individual students. As the Further Education Unit puts it: "modularization" should not be seen as "a sequential division of the curriculum" but as "a series of free-standing learning objectives with 'build up' effect accruing to the trainee who took them". (As can be seen, modules also speak their own language.)

In the ILEA's Hargreaves Report and in some I.E.A.s, like Chwyd, where alternative methods of assessment (or conventional examinations are being piloted, modules are known as "units". The traditional two-year O level or CSE courses are deconstructed into eight to 10, six to eight-week units.

By combining fourth and fifth years together, individual pupils can pick various routes through the many modules on offer. As long as certain core areas are covered, individuals can choose different combinations to suit their abilities and interests. This affords a possible way to prepare previously streamed and separated students for a unitary GCSE examination (but with questions and project work suitable for different levels).

It also prepares the majority of pupils to transfer into non-advanced further education, where their records of achievement in secondary school will be recognized (and banked) as contributions towards generalized pre-vocational courses. For where modules really come into their own is as the successors to the concept of Occupational Training Families in YTS.

OTFs divided all labour in the economy into 11 groups, much broader than traditional apprenticeship training in specific craft skills. But such was the demand for general training adaptable to many occupations (or rather the lack of demand for specialized, craft skills which are being replaced by new technology) that this division was still not broad enough.

In the two-year scheme Lord Young now speaks of as "the successor to YTS", core competencies will be built into pre-vocational courses that begin with a general introduction to the world of work. Trainees then move more or less quickly through a range of job tasters into other "experiential learning situations" where work experience familiarizes them with the demands of different working environments.

Since the work is not specialized, the skills which it requires can be transferred to other areas, having been demonstrated in practical tests and accredited as part of a profile.

Youth training thus moves away from time-serving where apprentices over a given period mastered (for they were mostly young men) the various aspects of a craft, towards a situation where a person can train in just one aspect of a wider occupational activity.

The MSC takes the same approach to its Adult Training, where retraining may only be required to perform one particular task rather than all the possible jobs someone in that occupation might previously have been able to tackle. For example (from the Road Transport Industry Training Board's modularized scheme), the competence to

fit exhausts in a drive-in centre rather than all the skills of a qualified mechanic in a garage.

Of course the route to further training is not thereby closed. Time and an employer permitting, bricklayers accredited only with modules in laying bricks in straight lines may take further modules to build corners, construct corners and so on. If these more advanced skills are required they will have profiles of achievement to show their competence to perform them. Thus advocates of modular training claim it is more open for individual opportunity, as well as being more flexible and adaptable to industry transformed by the application of new technology than rigid demarcations between skilled and unskilled work.

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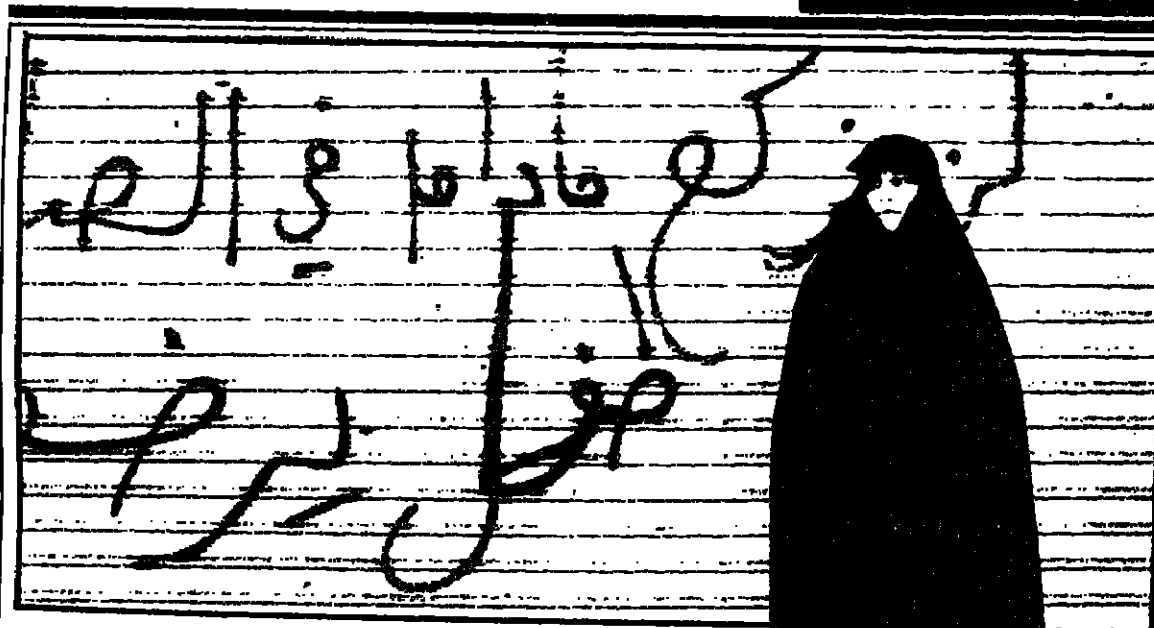
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BOOKS



Regional factors

Sam Miller on some analyses of Islamic politics

The Making of Modern Lebanon. By Helena Cobban. Hutchinson £6.95. 09 164791 4. **Islam Against the West.** By William L. Cleveland. Al-Saqi £6.95. 0 86356 006 7. **The Spirit of Allah.** By Amir Taheri. Hutchinson £14.95. 09 160320 X.

Helena Cobban knows about Lebanon. This means knowing she is not and never can be Lebanese or a Shi'ite, or a Maronite or a Druze. She works as a Western journalist and historian trying to make sense of the Lebanese morass, which she does a lot better than most. Her book is traditional. It describes political society – not people's lives but the intrigues and intricacies of the Lebanese political scene. It deals in detail with the period before the outbreak of civil war in 1975 and traces the gradual development of the so-called "confessional system" – an attempt to balance, according to their size and power, the claims of different religious groups – over the last four centuries. It is, at root, the history of a Druze supremacy which lasted until the middle of the last century and a history of the Maronite Christian ascendancy which lasted from 1860 until the assassination of President Bashir Gemayel in 1982, the withdrawal of the Israeli and American allies and Amin Gemayel's eventual submission to Syrian peacekeepers after the Battle of Beirut in February 1983. The challenge to the Maronites came ultimately from the Shi'ites – already the bogymen of the West following the Iranian revolution.

The American government and many Lebanese Christians have tended to explain the Lebanese civil wars as events instigated by external Nasserist, Soviet, Iranian or Palestinian interference. America's opponents often take the view that Israel and America are essentially to blame. As well as considering these points of view Helena Cobban tries to isolate those specifically Lebanese causes which, in the long term, relate to the demographic structure of the country. The facts are that a majority of Lebanese are Muslims and a majority of Lebanese Muslims are Shi'ite. By the existing constitution a Christian is President and all government jobs are allotted in a six-to-five ratio in favour of the Christians. Cobban writes that "regional factors may have had a great effect on the particular way the Shi'ites challenge to the Maronite ascendancy occurred and on its timing. But they did not affect the fact that it occurred. Had the regional situation been different, in my view, the Shi'ite challenge might have occurred earlier than it did, or it might have occurred later. But most probably, it would still have occurred."

Cobban knows that things are not really as simple as this. She knows, too, that it is vitally necessary to make generalizations of this sort if we are to penetrate the mysteries and the complexities of Lebanese politics. Just because an organization is called a political party does not mean that it is one in the Western sense. More often it is a lobby group with a military wing (the militias) and a power base which still remains primarily tribal. The tribal nature of Lebanese politics can divide co-religionists and force tactical unity on sworn enemies.

Behind the title *Islam Against the West* hides the biography of a curious and occasionally ludicrous man. Shukib Arslan was a journalist, a poet, a prince, a conspirator and a member of the Ottoman parliament. He was also a Druze chieftain (grandfather of the present Druze leader Walid Jumblatt) who preached Islamic nationalism. This was something dependent not on Koranic exegesis, but on a loathing of the Anglo-French inter-war occupation of the Arab territories of the defunct Ottoman Empire. He despised no government more than Turkey's secular administration under Atatürk. Arslan dreamed of the return of the caliphate, of an invigorated Islamic Empire, of the opportunity for Muslim countries to modernize autonomously.

For the first 30 years of his life Arslan was a faithful Ottoman subject from the province of Lebanon. He was a wandering exile for the remaining 30

years. Professor Cleveland's book is more concerned with the later period during which the Secret Services of France, Britain, Italy, and Switzerland ascribed to his instigation every episode of unrest, large and small, in the Arab world. He was said to command huge sums of money for the fomenting of Arab revolution. Little of this was true, though Arslan would have dearly loved it to have been. As Cleveland remarks apologetically, "Arslan was no Lenin". He was also continually in debt. In the late 1930s he tried to pay back 1,500 Marks that Hitler's government had given him. His successes were mainly in getting himself on the front page of at least one Arab newspaper every day.

Cleveland worries too much about Arslan's intellectual mediocrity and works too hard trying to excuse his association with the "murderous Mussolini". The interest of this book is not so much Arslan himself but the confusions he symbolises. These are the confusions of those who try to conflate Ottomanism or Arabism with Islam or who try to modernize Islam by removing its theological basis. These confusions have outlived Arslan. Amir Taheri has written the first biography in English of Ayatollah Khomeini. He does not like Khomeini, but then he does not like many of the characters in his book. Taheri was the editor-in-chief of the Iranian daily *Kayhan* before the revolution. He falls to throw any new light on the immediate pre-revolutionary period, something the reader might have hoped for considering his unique position in the Shah's Iran. He is an excellent storyteller, however. He has an obsession with what Khomeini had to eat on crucial days in Iranian history and he is able to reproduce the menus of these meals – usually a variation on kebabs, rice and yoghurt – 30 years after their consumption. In short, Mr Taheri is not terribly concerned with the truth. He is amusing, intelligent and his descriptions of Iran are vivid and in that respect may be more useful than the fact-ridden scholarship of writers who have never lived there.

An ivory tower for two

The Courtship of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett. By Daniel Karlin. Clarendon Press £12.95. 0 19 811728 0.

Anyone who knows the main outline of the Browning elopement only through *The Barrets of Wimpole Street*, the play by Rudolf Besier, or the subsequent film adaptation starring Norma Shearer, must inevitably have a simple, heroic view of this famous episode. A poetess with long black ringlets, languishing on a sofa in the grim fortress of a Victorian town house, is snatched from under the nose of a tyrannical paterfamilias by a dashing and virile young genius. He carries her off from the fogs of London to sunny Italy; she exchanges morphine and cough-mixtures for beakers full of the warm south; they enjoy fifteen years of married bliss until she dies in his arms in Florence, leaving him, now a renowned poet on a par with Tennyson, to care for the single fruit of their romantic love.

The biographies, especially the more sceptical ones by Betty Miller and Maisie Ward, tell a less operatic, but stranger, story. It was not a case of fresh young love: Robert was thirty-four and Elizabeth forty. His only previous known attachments had been platonic wooings of similar older ladies, with whom – according to Betty Miller – he had an urge to establish himself in a subservient, adoring relationship to replace a formerly intense mother-son bond, now no longer fully operative. He took the psychological initiative in the courtship, but since he had no means of livelihood, the elopement would have been out of the question but for Elizabeth's private income of £400 a year, which was enough, in those halcyon days, to ensure a comfortable existence for two, with servants, in Italy. Even so, the exile was marred for him by his persistent lack of literary success, whereas she became the famous authoress of the Victorian best-seller, *Aurora Leigh*. He experienced his mother's death as a much more traumatic event than his wife's, and the minute Elizabeth was dead he returned to England for good. His popular success came later, during his widowhood, and was somewhat blighted by disappointments connected with his undistinguished son.

It is just as well to be aware of these complexities on opening the two-volume edition of the letters exchanged by Robert and Elizabeth during the eighteen months which preceded their flight, with her maid and the celebrated dog Flush, from 50 Wimpole Street. This amorous correspondence must be one of the least attractive ever perpetrated by two lovers: painfully skittish and overwrought, it is a somewhat tedious and overblown display of mirrored egotisms and a chorus of mutual admiration, not untinged with condescension towards the world outside their duo. Even Dr Karlin, who takes the best possible view of it,

makes the devastating comment that the lovers

... were subject to the process by which the act of writing generates at least some, if not all, of its own material ... Browning and Elizabeth Barrett both had fixed ideas (long before they met) about love and their own place in an ideal relationship. Their love language is in part the product of these ideas, so that at times they seem like two prima donnas on the same stage, singing simultaneous and separate arias.

The story of the courtship, as Dr Karlin retells it, does not differ significantly from previous versions. Robert and Elizabeth were attracted to each other, in the first place, through their writings and the suggestions of common friends some time before he solicited the favour of a meeting. He seems to have genuinely admired her poems; Dr Karlin does not comment on the fact that posterity has not confirmed his judgment. He was looking for a woman to worship and she, perhaps, for a man to replace not only her adored elder brother, whose accidental drowning had been a contributory cause of her psychosomatic lamppost, but also her once-revered father, who had become eccentric and whose point of insanity, Robert and Elizabeth were doubly lucky: their sentimental yearnings were complementary, and their combined urge to lead the contemplative literary life could be satisfied on the basis of her modest fortune which, ironically enough, had its ultimate origin in the slave trade.

Robert made a courteous pretence of being prepared to work at some job in order to be able to keep her ("... I feel sure that whenever I make up my mind to that, I can be rich enough and to spare"), but she easily convinced him that he should not waste his energies on mere money-grubbing ("... is not the chief good of money, the being free from the need of thinking about it?"). So, with an apparently untroubled conscience, he moved on from being supported by his parents to being supported by his wife, and continued, in all purity, to pursue his vocation as a poet, which, as he said in his peculiar syntax, "is the chief duty of me".

And why not? He penned a number of good poems, as well as many excellent fragments scattered through acres of turgidity, and the good things in his work are enough to justify an existence. But these letters of his courtship days, which are so contorted in places that Dr Karlin has at times to subject them to a *lecture expurgée* as it were, are curiously unconvincing. In some profound way, he was not entirely honest or at ease with himself, and this may help to explain why so much of his vast, blustering output is now dead.

John Weightman

Misfits and deviants?

the resistance of patriarchy. All the theory lacks, Dr Larner concludes, is the evidence. Nor can she go along with the argument that the witch-hunt was a purge of unofficial female healers, to assist the professional male take-over of medicine, since the 17th century witch-hunt was over before this process happened. So why was the stereotype of a witch that of a woman? Dr Larner believes that at the Reformation, Christianity became the world's first political ideology. The witch-hunt was a low-stakes-order, panic directed against real or imagined deviants, which the legal rationalism of witchcraft made into a new and specific means of social control. Its victims were misfits or deviants, people whose aggression could not be channelled into socially acceptable forms of physical violence, but got channelled

into psychological aggression: women. When politics were secularized, searching out enemies of God became irrelevant, and the witch-hunt ended. Meanwhile, in the English home counties, poorer women were breast-feeding their babies as they always had; lactation inhibited their fertility, and their babies came about four years apart. Rich women, though, were succumbing to social pressure to give their babies to wet-nurses, letting themselves in for yearly pregnancies, and their babies for a thin chance of survival. Widows were re-married, but much less frequently as the 17th century wore on; thus widows had fewer children, and were less likely to be supported by family or wage-work. business or estate, she'd be unlikely to marry again, having achieved a legal identity and a measure of personal independence.

once which would be lost on re-marriage. This research is put together in *Women in English Society 1550-1800*. As for the women from the writing classes (and for fewer people could that in writing at all they were conscious of charges of invading men's territory). Writers of diaries, retrained in shorthand, and typically requested their diaries should be destroyed unread at their death. Braver women ventured into print, forever apologizing for their lack of learning, but always conscious that they had something to say that was not being said by men. It's here in published writing that Stuart women's history overlaps with the history of feminism. You could place the birth of public British feminism in the decades following the break-

down of censorship in 1640.

The story is taken up by Jane Rendall in *The Origins of Modern Feminism*, a comparative approach to developments in Britain, France and the United States between 1780 and 1860. The Enlightenment's concern to understand the true nature of woman was overtaken as the 19th century turned by a closing down of women's freedom and options. Female voters were disfranchised by New Jersey in 1807, in Britain in 1832. Abolition first became a crime here in 1803. Divorce for women in the new United States and Republican France rapidly disappeared, despite those pointing out the illogicality of liberty and equality for everyone except the poor, the black and the female. Sustaining such losses, women had to struggle doubly hard, and even so most of them were ignored, then and since. Jane Rendall leads these forgotten women back out into the glare of history. Books like all of these will help them struggle there.

Jessica Saraga

BOOKS

A mirror for social change

E C Wragg on the significance of the curriculum

Social Histories of the Secondary Curriculum. Edited by Ivor F Goodson. The Falmer Press £16.95. 1 85000 016 6. £9.95. 015 8. **Making School-centred INSET work.** By Patrick Easen. Croom Helm £7.95. 0 7099 1945 X.

The history of the secondary curriculum offers us an oblique account of the social history of the nation itself. In times of hardship science and technology are endorsed as economic life savers, or modern languages as a means of lubricating exports, and then in more sedate years classics makes a minor comeback as a subject which counters crude materialism.

Ivor Goodson has compiled an excellent set of histories of eight familiar school disciplines: classics, English, maths, science, domestic subjects, religious education, modern languages and social studies, with a couple of chapters on the sixth form in the nineteenth century and technical education in the 1950s and 60s. The periods covered by the several authors vary according to the individual subject, so classics spans almost two centuries, whereas the chapter on

religious education concentrates on agreed syllabuses since 1944.

In his chapter on the changing fortunes of classics Christopher Stray describes how its once powerful grip on the nation's grammar and public schools was loosened in the late 1950s when both Oxford and Cambridge ceased to require it for entry. The strength of this chapter, however, is that it looks behind the myths and stereotypes, revealing, for example, the questioning of classics which followed Oxbridge's abandonment of compulsory Greek after the First World War.

There is also a particularly good synopsis of the tight central control over curriculum exercised by the Board of Education from 1900 to 1930 through its power to give or withhold grants, as well as an interesting contemporary case study of a school struggling to preserve classical studies after comprehensive reorganization.

By contrast mathematics, following the Cockcroft Report, is enjoying considerable prestige, though not wholly favourable publicity. Barry Cooper's chapter on the last thirty years is an important one because it shows how the subject continues to

stream children on tripartite assumptions despite comprehensive reorganization, and to be based on the view that mathematics is intrinsically too difficult for all but the few. Yet, as Wilson pointed out in a TES article in 1983, some 90 per cent of children in the Soviet Union study calculus to our O level standard.

The notion of an agreed syllabus is anathema to some subject specialists who prefer to improve their own free of central control, but RE teachers have worked to one for over forty years. Adrian Bell writes a comprehensive analysis of these, describing two important landmarks, the West Riding syllabus of 1966 with its emphasis on the development of themes which would make Christianity relevant to the everyday lives of pupils and the revised Birmingham syllabus of 1974.

The latter caused a furore at the time not only by being multi-faith but for including the study of communism or humanism. The eventual 1975 Birmingham syllabus dropped communism from the syllabus but not from the teachers' handbook of ideas for classroom practice which embraced sociology, ethics, myths, and indeed the

expressive arts in religion. The Birmingham story is an intriguing test case of who ultimately controls the RE curriculum, because, despite intervention from pressure groups and the DES, the reworked agreed syllabus conference kept most of its original ideas and influenced many other authorities.

Although local authority guidelines, DES pronouncements and subject or examination syllabuses may determine some aspects of the curriculum, classroom events are ultimately fashioned by teachers themselves, sometimes initiating, sometimes responding to the pupils they teach. One recent trend which is worthy of all the support it can get is that of school-based or school-focused in-service, and in a rapidly changing society like our own heads and senior teachers have front-line responsibility to nurture their colleagues' professional and personal development.

The Open University text *Making School-centred INSET work* by Patrick Easen is a useful collection of ideas. There are sections on the challenges of school life, changing the curriculum, professional and personal learning, resolving conflict and improving com-

munication. The Appendices contain a number of articles, including the old favourite "The Saber-tooth Curriculum" written in 1939 but still capable of provoking debate.

The book is well produced but illustrated too profusely for this reader with diagrams and charts. I have never found life in the real world much resembled the neatness of textbook schemas and formulations. It is all too craggy. The beautiful flow chart which goes in straight lines from "formulate objectives" to "solve problem" ignores colleagues who have died on the job and stayed on posthumously and seasoned twerps. Easen's book is generally realistic enough to recognize constraints and conflicts along the somewhat tortuous route to improvement.

Though some of the proposed activities may strike teachers as a little abstruse and remote from real life, most are worthwhile. I was, however, sorry to see the "myth" status accorded to the "hero-innovator", the knight in shining armour trying to change things with a stroke of the sword. An ageing teaching profession can soon run short of heroes, and one hopes the persistent and eternally optimistic loony will not be seen off too easily.

'Income maintenance'

Who's to Benefit? A Radical Review of the Social Security System. By Peter Easom, Robert Good and Rick Middleton. Verso £16.50. 86091 111 X. £4.95. 8181.

Safeguarding Social Security. Available free from Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy, 2, Plein 1813, P.O. Box 20004, 2500 LE The Hague. **A Two-tier Basic Income and a National Minimum Wage.** By Robin Small in BIRG Bulletin No 4. Available from NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1 £1.75.

Who's to Benefit? is a book about social security reform which starts with the big advantage that its authors are welfare rights workers. This gives them a depth of understanding of the existing social security system which altogether eludes the growing band of researchers who rely on data from computer models and sample surveys.

The book's objective is to "tear away" the convention that income maintenance policies are "apolitical" and to set out the principles of a socialist approach; abolition of the existing systems of contributory national insurance benefits and means-tested supplementary benefit in favour of non-contributory, non means-tested "positional benefits" for part-time workers and for the non-employed including carers; a national minimum wage at a "socially decent and lively" and greatly increased child benefits.

Whether or not one agrees with these proposals, the book is good reading both for the clarity of its exposition and for the consistency with which the authors set out their ideas for change. Their analysis of the present system is all the better for their commitment to radical change. Unlike the soft left, who prefer tinkering change and who underestimate the disincentive and demoralising effects of the unemployment and poverty traps for fear of a welfare backlash, these new left authors fear nothing and reveal all (or almost all). The existing system "treats poor people worse than other people", pushing them "into a state of dependency on officials; everything they do must be reported or approved". How right they are.

Among this week's contributors:

NEW FROM Hodder & Stoughton

Regrettably however it is always easier to criticise than to innovate. The case for change along socialist principles needs figures to support it but instead, like Mr Norman Fowler's Social Security Review, we get here a package of principles without the necessary arithmetic. So the reader cannot judge whether or not socialist proposals are a reasonable and acceptable policies.

One change proposed is the individualisation of benefit units, with all men and women treated separately regardless of marital status. That is a change with which many non-socialists would agree. The traditional benefit categories penalise marriage and make no sense in a society increasingly populated by non-marital households.

Independent tax and benefit units are an integral part of most Basic Income schemes, and a move to individual benefit units is also recommended in a recent report by the Netherlands Social Security Review, which has a computer model and sample surveys.

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Among this week's contributors:

NEW FROM Hodder & Stoughton

History for Pupils with Learning Difficulties

Michael Wilson

This book provides a comprehensive study of the teaching of history to children with poor academic achievement levels. It covers all the major issues, including

- The problem of defining a child with learning difficulties

- Curriculum planning (aims and objectives)

- Appropriate teaching strategies

and provides practical and well-tested approaches for the classroom.

Mr Wilson looks at the role of history in the context of a common core curriculum, and presents a careful account of the theory behind this important area of education. He also provides practical and well-tested approaches for the classroom. Throughout the book he stresses the importance of school based innovation and evaluation.

0 340 35949 8 Paperback £4.95

Micro-History

Local history and computing projects

Sue Edgington

Designed for use in secondary schools and colleges of further education, *Micro-History* offers an approach to local history via a series of programs for the micro-computer. The software and accompanying book are intended to support each other. The book is well illustrated, with black and white photographs, authentic documents, and listings. It provides ideas for investigating information sources and suggests various projects about population before moving on to more particular studies such as literacy, mortality and social structure. The software programs themselves have all been run on real data from a single parish and provide a basis for comparison when students feed in different data assembled from their own parish records. The programs are easily followed and show information and results in clear, useful forms in order to provide a valuable stimulus for follow-up work.

0 340 37396 2 Paperback £3.95

Software

0 340 37397 8 BBC Model B disk, £12.00 + VAT

0 340 37398 9 BBC Model B cassette, £6.00 + VAT

0 340 37395 4 Sinclair Spectrum cassette, £6.00 + VAT.

Software is not available on inspection.

Management of Learning in the Classroom

Marten Shipman

In this new book, Professor Shipman presents evidence helpful to teachers planning the organisation of learning in the classroom. Studies in the psychology of learning and in sociology, and observations of classroom interaction, enable more informed professional judgements to be made about the task in hand and the skills and attitudes of the children about to undertake it. The focus moves from theories of learning to models of teaching and to actual classroom practices.

This is the twelfth title in the series *Studies in Teaching and Learning*.

0 340 34191 2 Limp £3.95

Teachers are invited to write for inspection copies, stating school address.

HODDER AND STOUTON DEPARTMENT 553 FREEPOST MILL ROAD DUNTON GREEN SEVENOAKS KENT TN13 1VY

How the land lies

Groundwork. Practical Ways of Learning about Soils. By Maggie Jarman. Leicestershire Museums Art Galleries and Records Service. 0 85022 1447. Fieldwork Location Guides. 4: The Brecon Beacons. By Michael Francis and Nigel Lawson. The Geographical Association. £2.40. Settlement History for Geographers. By Mary Arts and Glyn Jones. Gwynedd Archives Service. £1.50. Urban and Local Studies in Avon: A Resources Directory. Compiled by Graham Russell, Beverley Kelly, Gary Lloyd and Kathy Eastwood. County of Avon Public Relations and Publicity Department £1.50. 0 86063 205 9. The Geological Map: an anatomy of the landscape. HMSO £1.50. 0 11 880721 8. Fieldwork in Geography. By Janet Boyce and Jane Ferretti. Cambridge Educational £2.95. 0 521 27300 5.

Fieldwork is, I suppose, a form of do-it-yourself teaching. This may explain why it seems to attract the do-it-yourself publisher as well. Unfortunately, mediocre production standards do nothing to enhance the readability of a piece of writing. If a book is worth publishing it should be done well. At the very least, good design, effective layout and crisp black type ensure that nothing physical in the media gets between the reader and the message.

That this can be done effectively by a regional resources centre is ably demonstrated by the Regional Services of Leicestershire County Council in *Groundwork: Practical Ways of Learning about Soils*. This lively booklet packs a great deal of valuable information into 16 A4 pages. The typeface is clear, the presentation lucid and the book well-illustrated with self-explanatory line drawings and diagrams. It is an exciting, comprehensive and informative handbook to a field activity which many sixth formers have

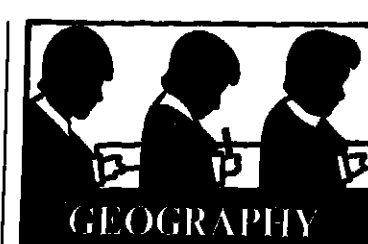
hitherto regarded as dull and boring. Incidentally, the booklet is universal in its appeal and utility and is not related at all (so far as I am aware) to anything specific in the soils of Leicestershire. By contrast, *Settlement History for Geographers* is rooted in the towns and villages of Gwynedd. Clearly the various types of archival resource utilized and the methodology employed have a more general application, serving as a model for similar studies in other parts of the British Isles. Unfortunately, this 92-page A4 publication looks more like a thesis than a book and the reproduction process fails to do justice to either the text or illustrations. None the less, it is a commendable addition to any resource library of environmental studies and geographical fieldwork.

The same is also true of the Avon County Planning Department guide to the local resources in Avon and to the Geographical Association Fieldwork Location Guide to the Brecon Beacons. The standard of reproduction in both booklets leaves much to be desired and the lack of effective visual stimulus detracts.

By contrast HMSO's *The Geological Map* grades professionalism with its fine full-colour maps and photographs and well planned text. It is also remarkably good value for money—something rarely said about other publications emanating from this source.

The book begins with a geological map of the British Isles and the geological column. The author then explains how rocks are formed with the aid of a number of excellent full-colour block diagrams. Folding, faulting and minor earth movements are all explained simply and clearly. Were it not for the terminology (eg "ferruginous", "lithological") the book could be safely placed in the hands of the secondary school beginner as well as in the hands of the more advanced pupil.

An important section of the text takes the reader through the map-making process, from the selection of a field area to the production of a geological map and cross-section.



GEOGRAPHY

sections to make the points. A later section of this 38-page book surveys the geological map of Britain "from highland to lowland" and usefully reproduces extracts which cover many parts of Britain.

Janet Boyce and Jane Ferretti have aimed *Fieldwork in Geography* "largely at 16th form students who are required to submit a fieldwork project as part of their examination and assessment". Each chapter has been designed for independent use rather than as a book for use by a class as a whole.

Fourteen topics have been chosen and these include studies of agricultural land use, river variables, upland ecosystems and the central business district. The authors present many interesting ideas here, supported by concrete examples, and the book is well thought out and effectively presented. If there is a fault it is that lack of space has precluded the full explanation and amplification of skills and techniques which many sixth formers may well require. Booklets directing the pupil elsewhere are not always an acceptable or adequate alternative when pressure on book resources limits the pupil's effective choice. Thus Spearman's rank correlation test is only explained in the text in brief outline. Few sixth formers new to the technique will be able to cope without seeking additional explanation. Yet, at the same time, the authors appear to neglect the fact that many pupils own scientific calculators which are already pre-programmed to compute relevant statistics, such as the product-moment correlation.

Philip Sauvain



William and Fanny Bullock Workman facing the perils of mountaineering at the turn of the century. Ian Cameron's *Exploring the Himalayas*, one of the Royal Geographical Society Exploring Series (Longman £5.95), tells in dramatic pictures and lively text the history of man's fascination with the world's most famous mountain range. *Exploring Australia* is published simultaneously in the same series.

Down to earth

Oxford Illustrated Encyclopedia (General editor: Harry Judge). Volume 1: The Physical World (Volume Editor: Sir Vivian Fuchs). Oxford University Press £15.95. 0 19 869 12 9.

The Physical World is one of a series of eight volumes covering the Natural World, (also just published), the History of Mankind (two volumes), the Arts, the World of Technology, Human Society and the Universe.

In the general preface, Harry Judge reports that during the early planning stages of the volumes, the choice had to be made about the format of the encyclopedia—should they contain a relatively small number of articles, or have "a much richer collection of shorter entries"? The latter course was opted for on the grounds that users "would welcome immediate access to the information for which they were seeking". I am doubtful whether the right decision was made, because although to my biased geological eyes Volume 1 is orientated towards the geosciences, a significant part of it deals not only with the concepts of physics and chemistry, but also the history of science and the exploration of our planet through potted biographies (such as Helmholtz and Henry the Navigator on the same page). If all this isn't enough, there are mathematical concepts too, from complex numbers to triangles. The result is an eclectic mixture; for example in the space of three pages under "H" not only are the achievements of the aforementioned gentlemen described, but there are entries as disparate as

bolium, Henry's Law, Hercynian episode (a mountain building period), hexahedra, High Plains (of North America), highs (the meteorological kind), hills, Himalayas, Hispaniola, histograms and histosols (highly organic soils). This curious combination could have been avoided if this volume had been split into volumes dealing with the Earth sciences, and the physical sciences.

In places, *The Physical World* does have a more thematic approach, with composite tables and diagrams covering topics such as climate, electricity, magnetism, radiation, geothermal energy, the Periodic Table and soil types. Only this approach had been used now—for plate tectonics, for sedimentation—and for really important applied themes like geophysical prospecting which warrant no entry at all.

At a different scale, I found, without exhaustive searching, that some of the illustrations were inappropriate or even misleading, giving the impression of being afterthoughts. The worst offender was a photograph of cores of oceanic crust labelled "Geophysical". But, to be fair, the clarity of both the drawings and the colour and black and white photos is generally excellent.

My advice to students and teachers with an interest in geography and the geosciences would be to use *Oxford's The Physical World* to look up brief definitions, but for an in depth treatment, the oppositions (Cambridge University Press) *Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences* is a much better bet, (and I say that as one of the few Open University staff who was not a contributing author).

Chris Wilson



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Journey to the Volcano. By Rose Tremaine. Hamish Hamilton £5.95. 0 241 11651 1.

The volcano is Etna. Eleven year old George is abducted from his Clapham school and taken to Sicily by his mother, Anna, whose family lives on the slopes of the mountain. Although she loves Robert, her English insurance clerk husband, Anna has a compulsive need to spend a long stretch of time with her old mother, Violetta, and to let her son experience this side of his inheritance. So although the story starts with what seems like a classic family break-up, *Journey to the Volcano* is, in fact, a book about people coming together. Robert is even alive as he takes time to be with his own neglected father: he comes to Sicily and Anna agrees to return with him so George is able to look forward to rejoining his father. London school

friends; but the beloved Violetta is killed by Etna's lava flow.

There is no more sentimental writer than Rose Tremaine. She makes it clear that Violetta would have died soon in any case, she was very old; but this in no way diminishes the grief that her daughters and grandchildren experience. Family warmth is not achieved without pain. That is made quite clear in this story of contrasts between the dull, comfortable order of suburban London, and the hard-working Sicilian hill farmers, with their vulnerable olive crop and straying goats, constantly battling against poverty.

Gentle and affectionate towards all her characters (even the awful, rich American godfather has his moment of heroism), Rose Tremaine is as honest about them in this, her first children's book, as she has proved to be in her adult novels. The grown ups in *George's* life are given the same careful attention that is shown to his contemporaries. His author pays her young readers the compliment of taking them into the adult world, while allowing them to enjoy the adventure appropriate to their own.

Shirley Toulson

White light

INTERPRETERS. By Ronald Harwood. The Queen's Theatre. King Lear. By William Shakespeare. Almeida Theatre.

INTERPRETERS centres on a Foreign Office enquiry into what nearly happened the official visit to London of Soviet President Stepanov. It opened at Gorbachov and Reagan met in Geneva and so acquired an immediacy of impact which seemed astonishing. To a cleverly written, well constructed, interestingly designed, smoothly directed, beautifully acted play was added the thrill of topicality. To cap it, there was Maggie Smith at her soulful speaking best struggling dextrously with sexual passion and political deflection, drawing pity and laughter by turns, surrounded by supporting actors who elsewhere play leads.

All the ingredients are right for a West End success. There are suggestions that feelings might be explored, ideas examined, stereotypes explored in the barbaric love that sweeps through English Nadia and Russian Viktor. We are flattered into thinking that what we see may be, then Harwood—his heroine jobs, tearful, undergoing a breakdown—forces happy ending. Nadia smiles through her tears while her FO boss (splendid John Moffat) weeps with admiration. In the last five minutes the proffered meringue falls to the ground and disintegrates and we are left feeling cheated.

I felt the same about *Kick Theatre's* widely thought not universally praised production of *King Lear*. Devised by a group of young actors, it offered a direct, brutal, bloody and assorted buckets on a bare stage. Her Lear is a stocky, crew-cut, mustache, early middle-aged low comedian. Gloucester speaks Scottish; Cordelia is a loud-mouthed vixen who also doubles as elocuting Fool.

From its Brechtian white-light opening to its roaring end (the Lear, Cordelia's reconciliation is a shouting match) Warner's direction works against the text. Sometimes it seems wilful: drums and cymbals make the storm but "far off... the beaten drum" is silent; Lear's description of Cordelia ("her voice was ever soft, gentle and low") suggests he never heard her. At other times startling directorial images seem crassly mistaken: Lear halfway up a ladder conducting the storm with a riding crop, doing a bare-bottomed belly dance to *Kick's* Lear.

Kick's Lear looks like Shakespeare's in the teeth. Cosmic forces? Nature's overthrow? Royal tragedy? Forget them all in a production which mixes old-style actors' posturing with desperate novelty, in which players spout words sans character, feeling, meaning. Over-cast Robert Demegre as Lear never matches word with thought and action. It is left to Derek Hutchinson (Kent) and Janet Amstrong (Regan) to provide glimpses of what the play is really about.

When Lear goes mad, the order of creation is thrown out of joint. He is not just your average patient in a psychiatric ward, weird in behaviour, inspiring pity and nervousness. He is the fulcrum about which his (and our) world turns and when that centre is thrown away, God help the rest (and us). Shakespeare catches this in poetic images of colossal terror and shocking simplicity. The tale of Lear and his daughters is a story of the human condition which Shakespeare's art turns it into something universally significant and immensely powerful. Igniting the antics of the mentally sick is a kind of truth but it is light years away from the truth about the human condition which Lear's suffering, madness and reconciliation reveal.

John James

The Wheel of Life, edited by Norman and Jeanne Mackenzie, is Volume Four of Beatrice Webb's Diary (Virago £22.00). This final section, covering the years 1924-1943, reports encounters with the Shaws, the Woolfs, and

Schools Prom Royal Albert Hall, Wednesday 27th November.

Music, we are often told, is a civilizing influence. And yet there's nothing like a musical disagreement to widen the generational gap and bring out all those prejudices every self-respecting liberal is usually afraid to articulate. However, much people protest about breaking down cultural barriers, what the educated concert-going public wants is serious music and the reason you won't find steelband and string quartets on the same programme is because audiences don't want it.

Except at the Schools Prom, that is. And here the mixture works, for the under-eighteens at least. The last night of the 1985 season broke the rules by enlisting with an orchestra rather than a band, and spirits ran high with the Birmingham Academy's splendidly crisp performance of the Prokofiev Classical Symphony. After that came some lighter items. "Great for the Mums" stilled my companion as the Mountbatten Choir delivered their extremely polished arrangements of show songs from *West Side Story*. We even had that most sober of ensembles—a flute trio from Bournemouth Girls' School—transforming *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* in a feat of spectacular virtuosity. But is this kind of repertoire chosen for its novelty value, because on the last night all people want is a good tune?

Administrator Jean Halford Thompson says there is no attempt to engineer a lighter programme on the last night. Achieving a balance on all three nights takes up the months between the July National Festival of Music for Youth and November. Groups select their own repertoire with careful vetting from the Music for Youth team. Music performed at the Festival is rarely suitable for the Schools Prom. Sometimes the engagement of a soloist will mean an orchestra has to accompany a concerto, or, as happened on Wednesday, a programme with its quota of bands will be balanced by a classical symphony.

A technical hitch can capsize the concert (a pity the rather grey evening now confirms is surely the only one in the repertoire—despite soloist John Harle's excellent performance of it). The order in which groups appear is just as important. This is usually band—choir—small orchestra group; but sometimes outside forces intervene. This year the Proms fell at the same time as the Oxford and Cambridge entrance exams. The Bournemouth

ARTS



Hope and glory

Philippa Davidson considers The Schools Prom

Flute Trio was due to appear on Monday but was switched to the last night, thereby creating the "outbreak of flutes" referred to by presenter Richard Baker. Further complications occurred when the steelband, playing in Bournemouth's place on Monday, had to abandon their planned Beatles medley to avoid a surfeit of Beatmania on that night.

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some hours earlier to rehearse the organ's few bars in *Land of Hope and Glory*. His confident execution of the flamboyant *Widor Toccata* betrayed none of the tension he must have felt at being asked to perform the piece at such short notice.

When the coach loads have departed, what really matters about the Schools Prom is not the style of music the groups perform, but whether they

hands over her ears when Electro- dance tuned their synthesizers was probably doing so not because she was allergic to electronic music but because the balance of sound was unmusical. And had the critic of Mountbatten Schools' show songs listened to the singers' excellent diction, or remarked on their stylish presentation, all too infrequently found amongst amateur

choirs? The importance of the educational experience behind the shop window should never be minimized. Perhaps *Scalby Schools' 42nd Street* isn't quite up to Drury Lane standard chorographically speaking, but in a school that offers such a diversity of musical experience it is highly commendable to bring together all the various forms of music-making in an entertainment that gives opportunity for performance to so many pupils.

There can be nothing but unreserved praise for one of the last night's most delightful offerings—Sheila Nelson's *Cornwall Quilts* (all under 12) playing Donizetti's *Introduction*, a little-performed chamber work with some predictably operatic writing for strings. We can surely expect to see their first violin—in fact all the players—as the soloists of the future. Nevertheless, such groups are a tribute to fine instrumental teaching, natural gifts and parental support; they are not school music-making.

Speaking of which, primary school contributions were sparse this year. The sole representative from this sector were Grangeview Records, complete with Renaissance costumes, Middlesbrough accents and of course some excellent recorder playing. What happened to groups like the Tiny Tots Accordion Band, and the recorder groups from Sheffield? They are performing at the Schools Prom North in March, but generally, says Jean Halford Thompson, fewer primary school groups than usual were up to Albert Hall standard. Let us hope that this is some temporary blip, and not a sign of further decline in primary music. Over 100 groups, including primaries, dropped out of the regional auditions this year, for a variety of reasons, and nowhere are the painful results of teacher action more felt than in the curtailment of extra curricular subjects like music, particularly in the primary sector.

Teacher action, sadly, was almost certainly a contributing factor to the underrepresentation of the arena on the first night. But even this has its positive side. Anthony Harding writes more musically attentive. The 1985 Proms have been a success—at least for the consumers.

The Schools Prom is sponsored by the Association of Music Industries, Commercial Union Assurance, The Rank Organisation and The Times Educational Supplement.

Theatre in Education

All human life...

Six Minutes Past Nine Dr Foster's Travelling Theatre

On the bare boards of village halls, community centres, schools and colleges throughout the Southwest, the four actors of Dr Foster's Travelling Theatre reconstruct the anonymous life of a rural council estate. It is a switchback of a show. Moods swing from the hilarious (there is a ridiculous character whose instant response to any situation is to set off on a sponsored jog) through satire (an inspired mime of a parish council meeting) to stark tragedy as one evening, at six minutes past nine, two adolescents giggle their way to death on the exhaust fumes of a snow-bound car. It is a crowded scene. None of the actors takes on less than four characters. Helen Stuart alters the way she wears a black cardigan to indicate an old lady, a teenager and a headmistress. Tracey Ashford convincingly plays both the missing girl and her mother. The company founders, Greg Banks and Nigel Stephenson, who also arranged the music, get inside the skins of the men of the village, a motley crew that includes a pretentious Minister and a confused policeman.

Six Minutes Past Nine is community theatre at its best. Between now and Christmas, Dr Foster's will be touring it in Gloucestershire and Bristol. From January they go off on a nationwide tour. Information on performances is obtainable from Stroud (045 36) 71903.

Shirley Toulson

Mileage

Getting Through and Over and Out Theatre Centre, touring schools.

Theatre Centre won't let schools book both of these plays, they have to have one of them. Teachers can't even choose which. This isn't because of a sudden meanness of spirit, it's to facilitate an interesting experiment in inter-school communication.

The two plays are, in fact, companion pieces. In *Getting Through*, Caz starts a new secondary school and is immediately frustrated by the lack of understanding she finds there. While she has set her heart on electronics as her future life's work, the school wants to confine her to "more ladylike" activities. With the aid of her sensitive young (male) friend Boy, and despite the efforts of wicked sexist teachers and a set of classmate portraits, cartoon style, as either drips or thuds she achieves her ambition—friendship with a weird lady cleaner and an even weirder EFL teacher, and the construction of a radio transmitter with powers to contact other worlds.

In *Over and Out* we find the same characters in a different, idyllic world where the pressures of conformity have been magically removed. Caz and Boy are newcomers to the "New Frontier" and the play is about their adjustment to it. Caz still has a radio that she's very proud of, though this time she uses it to receive messages to her counterpart in the more down to earth *Getting Through*.

The company encourages their audiences, through a well produced work book to do two things. One, to examine the themes of whichever play they saw, and to develop written work around them. Two, to write to pupils in a "twinned" school to compare notes about the different plays, fitting the two into one jigsaw picture. Caz and

unusual and clever way to follow up two excellent performance pieces, played fantasy style—with a terrific sense of fun. The aim is to carry that sense of fun into the follow up work, from which teachers could get a great deal of useful mileage.

There are two reservations, though. One is to do with the familiar cry "It's not fair, miss!" It isn't. Pupils who get the cartoonish *Getting Through*, with its loopy operatic style (a sort of Gilbert and Sullivan go anti-sexist at Grange Hill effect) have a much better deal than those who get the more airy *Over and Out*. This despite the fact that both shows have the same joint writers and directors, Nona Sheppard and a Bryony Layard.

The second reservation, particularly for showings in junior schools, is the danger that *Getting Through* may suggest to 9-11 year olds that the secondary schools they are bound for will be full of sexist teachers, diverting the aims of the girls and encouraging the boys to be mini-macho-men. This may be true in part, but it's generally accepted that parents influence their children's choice of subject and the image they have of themselves as much—if not more—than teachers do.

Nick Baker

Game show

Gala's Song Commonwealth Institute

The set of *Gala's Song* is stunning. Few children will resist being taken by a barmy professor for a time trip into the remote past; especially not when the past is such a song, tree-surrounded cave with trickling water and masses of skins, stones and logs lying around. So far the experience is pure gain, lending a vital dimension to the more academic view of the past espoused by the

Human Story exhibition. Children, however, are not all equally suggestible, and are as likely as not to reply to the question "Do you come in peace?" with "No I've got a submachine gun." Pity the actor who is thrown by such a reply, for the game then begins to be lost.

So, sorry to say, there are faults of attitude in *Gala's Song*. Two of the players have classroom experience and are somewhat flexible with the children, but the glamorous Anna who plays Gula, spirit of the earth, and Eric, who directs the show, seem keener on getting the right performance from the children as well as themselves. This deadens the educational value and makes for poor participation in the game.

Still, the show is full of good ideas. Life in the co-operative groups of early hominids is followed by a game show in the present where images of the future are evoked for the audience's interrogation. A few rousing songs, and cheers punctuate the message of man's dependence on nature and need to share in order to survive. And children will love the opportunity to act out a few fantasies about life in those ancestral caves.

Victoria Neumark

Gala's Song will be showing at the Commonwealth Institute until 21 February, excluding holidays, at 10.30am and 1pm. For children aged 8-13 in groups of not more than 35.

Endpage 30

Brian Alderson on the Brothers Grimm; Victoria Neumark on the future of English; Keith McCulloch on the history of science.

The Cambridge Field Guide to Prehistoric Life

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For further details please write to: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, England.

Further reviews of geography books occur in pages 33 to 40.

Literary competition

Competition No.69 Report by Seylla
You had to write 140 words (including the Booker Prize short list titles) on Choice. I merely had to choose the winners. An easier task? There were plenty of entries, covering such topics as archaeology, pub crawls, crossword clues, eating out, and of course cricket (Pollock and 'Ily' were useful here). But my task was made no easier by three of my short list turning out to be 144, 146 and 147 words long. I might have accepted 141 (who is to say whether 'I'm' is more words than 'freedom-fighter') but as most of you try hard to keep to the word limit - and it's more fun anyway - I was strict. As E.O. Parrot said, "The author must become the willy-nilly whacker-out of all unnecessary words."

In spite of this perhaps unusual strictness on my part, there were still plenty of good entries to choose from, and some very original ways of including some of the titles, especially of 'Ilywhacker'. Honourable mentions to Harry Smith, E.J. Elwin and Graham Guest, all of whom missed by a whisker, and to Catherine Brice for her self-ingenious £12 each to the winners, whom I could not separate.

Goodness! It was Jane! It seemed ages since University and our last letter. "From 'Ilywhacker' you chose 'judiciously'." "Punishing the wicked, preserving the good. Appropriate work, actually, I'm not a real lawyer yet. And you?" "I'm in theatre."

We suddenly giggled at the memory of our last play at Pollock's Hall in Edinburgh. We'd chosen *Twelfth Night* Costa pared to the bone. People practically forced to buy tickets, even the philistine Whacker, who arrived drunk and quarrelsome. The curtain went up. No scenery, little lighting. Viola. What country, friend, is this? Captain. It is Ilywhacker. "Looks like no-matter-land, darling!"

The arguments and bawling that followed became known as 'The Battle of Pollock's'. Crossing our fingers, we tried to re-start the play, but what was the good? Terrorist tactics rule a romantic comedy.

Brian J Hayward

I asked about Pollock.
"The good young republican," he replied, "became the good apprentice gunman: and ultimately, the good terrorist. But nationalism conflicted, violently, as it were, with the international socialism in his heart. Thus grew the battle - of Pollock's crossing borders into Ulster, or into the world; to be an Irish freedom-fighter, or universal liberator. Pollock wasn't what Australians would call an Ilywhacker - he fooled nobody, not even himself. It is neither the flesh nor the bone people consist of - yes, even terrorists are people - which ensures such choices are made. It is the soul. And Pollock chose."

I put my gun to his head.
"Tell me, old liar. Where was it you last heard of him?" I said.
He winked. "Sure, I had his last letters from Hav". He hesitated, foxily. "From Belfast, naturally," smiled the priest. "He chose."

Bill Greenwell

Every bowler has a choice, with each ball. So what about intimidatory bowling, a subject very near the bone? People fail to distinguish between the good terrorist and the bad, the accurate and inaccurate fast bowler, and the slower man like Raymond Illingworth, who chooses an occasional mean delivery (we called it an Ilywhacker). Patsy Hendren wrote about choice in his last letters. From HAV-JOK in the Encyclopedia Britannica you will find no mention of Hendren, but he knew. From being the good apprentice Patsy became the complete cricketer.

"The bowler," he wrote, "should not choose to provide runs. Indeed, spectators do not choose to endure the sight of Huttons endlessly dominating the battle: of Pollock's crossing while the board clicks on towards four figures; of Gavaskar in permanent residence."

Paul Griffin

"The good terrorist is like the good apprentice: he chooses what he believes to be the best tools for the job. Sometimes he's wrong." "The last letters from Hav had been full of this sort of

pseudo-philosophical mumbo-jumbo. Now the old drongo had croaked. We'd met in a foxhole in Suva. The Battle of Pollock's Crossing it was. He'd been a small-time Ilywhacker from Dandenong way; he sure showed me a trick or two. Anyhow, he got a leg shot off, and the bone people at the hospital reckoned the other was pretty crook. He never took to being cripple, it twisted him inside - for choice, he'd as soon have been dead.

He got his wish when his last con went wrong. His mark caught him out, and his tucker went. My oath, but I'll miss the old dill.

Bill Smith

Well, after we'd finished off Border and his Ilywhackers ('Ilywhacker' - that was what we called Raymond when he hit those sixes up at Scarborough) we had to pick a crew to face Marshall and Holding again. 'I know what I called 'em after they put out Lloyd and Terry - the bone people. The 'Good Terrorist' picked himself of course; Ian Botham scares me if not the opposition. We had to be careful over South Africa, remembering the battle of Pollock's crossing (not to mention Procter's), but finally we'd just one place left, free for a young fast bowler. We decided we couldn't ignore the last letters from 'Hav' (H.A.V. Evans of Glamorgan II and D.H. Robbins XI - Ed); with his dying breath the old boy wrote 'Young Gregg'll be the good apprentice of any tour'; and let's hope he was right!

Michael J Downes

Competition No. 70. Set by Charybdis
Dickens' *Mis Havisham* and Caravaggio's *The Calling of St Matthew* are currently conscribed into telly commercials, advertising respectively a furniture polish and a snake of TV. Up to 150 words please from the script of a commercial that similarly exploits a very famous book or picture in a way that is as nauseating as the product that is being peddled. Be as (primitively) tasteless as you please. Closing date: December 17. (Remember Xmas post! delays and get your entry written and posted before you tackle all those cards).

Television

Trouble in the cities

Wanton cruelty to animals is repulsive, but *Out of Court* (BBC2, November 27) made badger-baiting into a relatively harmless pastime, simply by putting its report immediately after one on the catastrophe at Bhopal. The more anguished the commentary became, as it detailed the horrific injuries to terriers and badgers and the nocturnal efforts of RSPCA officials to prevent them, the less it was likely to move viewers still preoccupied with the matter of whether Union Carbide is actually preventing victims in Bhopal from receiving the correct treatment, by disguising the precise nature of the chemical that poisoned them.

News editors know all about the dangers of context and are usually quite good at avoiding them. As various studies have shown, perceptions of the news are distorted by other factors. In "Race Against Time", The Eleventh Hour (November 25) analysed coverage of the 1980 Miami race riots on local and national networks in the USA. Even this excellent report, directed by David Schubert, was hampered by the refusal of a CBS affiliate to release some of their news footage, illustrating just how much which hampers serious study of television.

The programme highlighted complaints frequently made about news reporting on such events: there is too little attempt to give the background to violence and too much emphasis on dramatic footage of burning buildings and angry crowds, with no explanation for a national audience of the local conditions that provoked the riots. In this case, too, newsmen were told that they could not be given police protection in the riot areas, so most of their film, in the first days, was shot from behind a fringe of riot police shields. When they did get beyond this, they tended to interview White victims, rather than Black, and owners of business premises destroyed by riots. Given the limited time accorded to them (about twelve seconds), interviewees were preferred who had a recognizable title or function, and a

few (eg a university professor) were rapidly elevated to the status of "spokespersons" for the community. The programme was well-timed, unfortunately. "What can be in a set of people to make them feel that way?" asked a resident of the Broadwater Farm estate in one attempt to explore the causes of the Tottenham riots (*Diverse Reports*, November 27). "Nobody's going to tell me that it's because they want to nick a colour telly, or some geyser who's a left-wing militant has come down here and said: 'The Conservative Party's bad, let's kill them.'" Two days earlier, *Panorama* (November 25) went to Toxteth to study the immediate and longer-term causes of the riots and the aftermath. Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of local reaction was the condemnation of community policing, retrospectively, as a form of spying - "a massive observation of this community". The failure of the alternative ("positive policing") was evident, as was the conclusion that the problem is beyond the reach of hard or soft tactics by the police. "People don't tend to riot if they've got a lot of investment in the social system."

The Church, which has long-standing investment both with the system and with those outside it, is liable to criticism when it shows any enthusiasm in protecting one or the other. The first news of the C of E report of inner city deprivation was followed on Sunday evening by an *Everyman* (December 1) on the record in Middlesbrough. After 150 years, the balance sheet was not entirely in the Church's favour.

The Home Movie Front (BBC2, November 22 and 29) tapped a promising vein with wartime amateur film from a village in Bedfordshire and a small town in Germany. The second was easily the more fascinating, if only because the evidence of persecution, parades, propaganda and disasters on the Russian front was less familiar than a fête on the vicarage lawn.

Robin Buss

Caught in flagrante

You can't keep a good man down, or a good play either: the astonishing thing about Joe Orton's *Up Against It* is that it should have had to wait so unaccountably long for its professional premiere.

The event occurred two months ago at the Old Red Lion theatre in Islington, one of London's finest up-and-coming venues if also one with a notably adventurous policy. The premiere was a success, and if it has not yet led to the West End opening which will surely come it has resulted in a repeated local run till nearly Christmas.

Richard Hanson's production does full justice to this exhilarating and uncannily prescient farce; indeed, it is in some ways hard to imagine it being done better. Subtitled 'A Screenplay for the Beatles', it was written in a fizz of excitement following Orton's sudden success, and with a take-it-or-leave-it attitude to the famous but very modestly talented quartet. (As Orton confided to his diary: "I don't think any of the Beatles can act in any accepted sense... Hope to discuss this problem tomorrow.") It was one of the ironies of his short life that he should have been due to discuss that problem at Twickenham on the very day he fell under his boy-friend's hammer, and it was a measure of the play's inimitable light-footed brilliance that a string of established writers failed to turn to carry it off - it was only a first draft - into production.

The boys in my script have been caught in flagrante, committed murder, been in prison and committed suicide. (Gender-ambiguity permeates the characteristically anarchic plot, which involves assassination at a political conference, an iron-lady, a police inspector, and follows a willy-whacker with a benign sexual one.



Orton: take it or leave it

No wonder the heroes of *Help!* sent it back quick. Backed by music from Mood Six and The Times, the Old Red Lion cast hit exactly the right note of stylized preposterousness, with Tilly Vosburgh and Naomi Buch being outstandingly funny; the shoeing homeliness of the set, coupled with frequent doubling-up, serves to direct attention back where it belongs - on the chiselled outrageousness of the lines.

Michael Church

'Up Against It' is at the Old Red Lion (0377 7816) till December 20. The script is published by Methuen, with an informative introduction by Orton's biographer John Lahr, at £2.25.

The Making of Citizen Kane by Robert L. Carringer (John Murray £5.55) is yet another addition to the enormous pile of dissertations on this topic; but it offers new material culled from interviews with 'Wolfs' (just in time) and other protagonists. The illustrations, including art department sketches, are in many cases published for the first time.

Allied bombs

Kurt Schwitters.
The Gallery until January 5.
Kurt Schwitters. By John Elderfield.
Thames and Hudson £30. 0 500 23426 4.

Despite John Elderfield's modest claims, his book is the most comprehensive study of Kurt Schwitters we have, uniting writer, poet, performer, painter and graphic designer with the now famous artist of collages and assemblages, and setting these diverse activities in the social and artistic context of their time. It is an indispensable account, for without it even Schwitters' admirers could have some difficulties in fully appreciating this exhibition.

Rejects?

Our Day Out.
Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Willy Russell wrote a memorable television play called *Our Day Out* about a remedial class from Liverpool on a day trip to Conway Castle. It surfaced as a couple of times as a stage play to a mixed response; somehow it didn't seem to work. The version at the Crucible Theatre, with songs added, has got it right at last.

The songs are not exactly memorable, some moments translate from the screen less well than others. The broad style means some of the pathos and subtlety of the original has gone. But like *Man, Boy, Boy*, the class teacher, some of the time. Not a bad achievement.

All but the lost theatrical models and the naturalist paintings Schwitters did throughout his life are represented. Yet, despite his use of almost every kind of material and the combination of visual, verbal and even aural means to achieve his ambitious fusion of the arts, the overall effect of the show is not one of great variety but monotony. To go beyond the very evident formal and decorative appeal of the work, you need an informed eye and a knowledge of German.

Non-German speaking viewers will easily see the gauze peated over photographic figures in "Like an Old Master" as a parody just as they will respond to the sensuous use of a similar piece of cloth in the abstract "White, Beige, Brown". But with an artist who prefixed almost everything he did with the meaningless "merz" (a syllable of kommerzbank), well aware of its assonance with the German word for joke, heart and pain, they can only feel excluded from the deeper meanings of other collages.

If the language barrier is insurmountable, the visual one need not be.

"While Relief" and "For Kato" are as eloquent as anything produced by Constructivist and Pop-artists. Even Schwitters' most ambitious piece, "The Cathedral of Misery", could have played a more important role in the show with a little imagination and effort. Destroyed by allied bombs, it now exists only in photographs, but instead of assembling these to suggest the enveloping scale of this monumental work, they are reduced to two or three placards that alienate the visitor. All the more reason for reading Elderfield's book first.

Michael Clarke

The 1986 Sunday Times National Student Drama Festival is due to be held in Swansea between April 3 and 10. Schools have until February 28 to mount productions for possible inclusion. Last year two schools were selected out of nine contenders (of 104 entries overall) and both went on to the Edinburgh Festival. Details from Clive Wolfe, 20 Lansdowne Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2AU (01 883 4586).

The Greater London Council, with the axe due to fall in the Spring, is still initiating new projects. The latest, at the Royal Festival Hall, is *Bookspace*, a flexible exhibition and performance area in the space occupied by an overpriced restaurant.

In the period leading up to Christmas there is an exhibition of Ralph Steadman's illustrations for *Treasure Island* (until January) and of some of the books recommended by the *Good Book Guide to Children's Books* (until December 23). Books are also on sale.

NAEA

National Association for Education in the Arts
National Congress - 4-8th April 1986
"ARTS AT THE CENTRE"
Willowbank School, Glasgow
Topics to be discussed: Arts in the Curriculum, Arts in the Community, Arts in the Home, Arts in the Media, Arts in the Workplace, Arts in the Environment, Arts in the Future.

Nick Wood

What's the score?

Philippa Davidson on a classical orchestral kit, Andrew Pegg on a modern keyboard

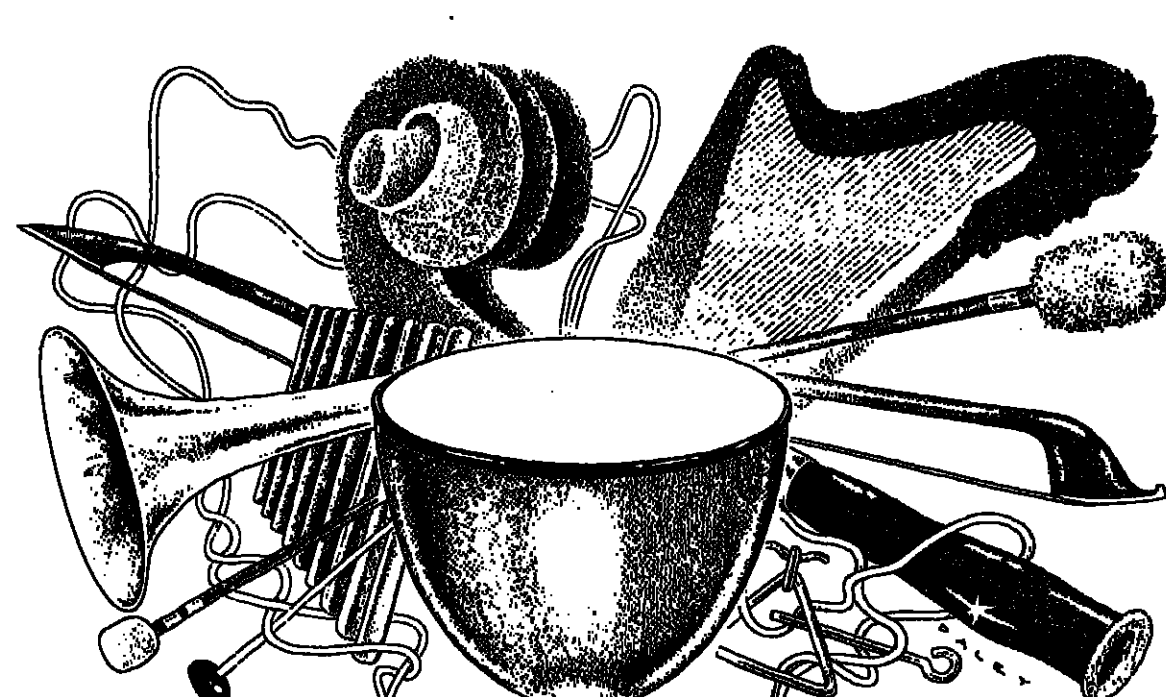
André Previn's Guide to Music
Complete kit: one copy each of eight topic books, 24 copies of activity book, 24 wallcharts, four C60 cassette tapes, 0 333 33974 6 £65 + VAT
Available separately: topic books (pack of eight) 0 333 33975 4 £9.50; wallcharts (set of 24) 0 333 33976 2 £14.95 + VAT; activity books, pack of six 0 333 33977 0 £3.95
Macmillan Education, Little Essex Street, London WC2R 3LF.

It doesn't quite add up: a glossy, expensive compendium on a well-worn topic - the instruments of the orchestra - at a time when class music is fighting for survival and educational publishers have stopped taking risks. And a further mystery, namely André Previn's part in the project - surely this must be an attempt to sell a product on a famous name. However, teachers, particularly those primary teachers who have spent the last few years trying to fight their way around the Schools Council's Time for Music scheme, can feel reassured. The four elements of this package (cassettes, information books, activity books, wallcharts) are in theory flexible and can be deployed in the way best suited to the age and needs of the pupils.

The teaching notes suggest the starting point might be to take one family of instruments, find out how the sound is made, construct a homemade version, compose some music and find out more about the family. In practice, however, the way the material is organized probably dictates that the class will be split into groups with each group working on a different topic.

The topic books, attractively illustrated with full-colour photographs, contain facts that cannot be found elsewhere and in places the text is sometimes dull. Whether the younger ones need this amount of information is possibly an irrelevant question since most of the assumptions made in the text are well beyond the average nine-year-old. The books would be useful for CSE project work, though there might be a danger that music would be forgotten (they contain no musical examples and few references to actual works) if they were used in isolation from the rest of the kit.

The activity books, printed in black and white and serviceably illustrated, seem to place more emphasis on practical work with wood and string than on musical activity. Although such acoustical experiments could be of value, especially with younger children, it is difficult to imagine many music teachers having time for them. More space might have been devoted to activities focusing directly on the taped extracts, or further creative and composing activities, of which there are a few well-



The recordings give a limited coverage of pop music from the point of view of amplification and recording techniques, but contain no examples of ethnic instruments being played; pictures and information, rather scant, can be found in the topic books and on the wallcharts.

A quick calculation reveals that this compendious package is in no way poor value for money. One kit could serve a number of classes in a second year school, or a number of schools in a district. The amount of information is possibly an irrelevant question since most of the assumptions made in the text are well beyond the average nine-year-old. The books would be useful for CSE project work, though there might be a danger that music would be forgotten (they contain no musical examples and few references to actual works) if they were used in isolation from the rest of the kit.

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chosen examples for each instrumental family or topic. Wisely, the authors have ensured that all the answers to research questions can be found in the books, on the cassettes or on the wallcharts, the latter an accessible source of information for younger children as well as decoration for the classroom wall.

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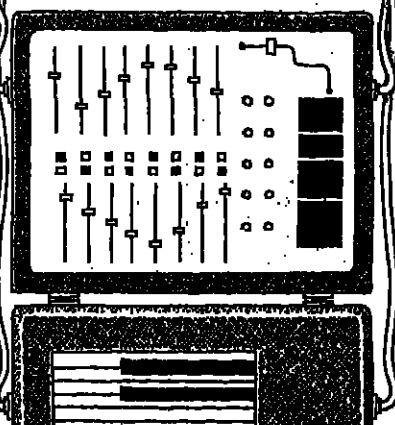
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Seiko Digital Keyboard, DS-202 (GM 050)
Price £350 + VAT
Seiko Sequencer, DS-320 (GM 052)
Seiko Synthesizer, DS-310 (GM 051)
Price £200 each + VAT
All available through E J Arnold.

The Seiko Digital Sound System brings digital technology into the realms of at least some school budgets. Apart from a distinct advantage of sound output, with automatic implementation of the package offers educational establishments three important advantages over other electronic keyboards.

The first is the price: the keyboard itself is available for about £350 + VAT, compared to over £1,500 for the Yamaha DX-7. The sequencer and synthesizer are designed as add-on units at just over £200 each. And herein lies the second advantage - the modular design allows for spreading of a financial load and for designated uses which can be specifically dedicated in terms of educational, performing or composing aims.

The third advantage is the strong educational element built into the synthesizer. Recent synthesizer models have rightly tended to emphasize minimum button pressing and maximum user-friendliness, bearing in mind the acute impatience of aspiring rock stars. Only the Roland Jupiter and Juno Series still retain a manual control layout which reflects the logic



Stringalong

The Symphony Orchestra
One chart 76 x 100 cm £3.90
Instruments of the Orchestra
Percussion, Brass, Woodwind, String
Eight charts in each pack at £3.90
Aldi prices + VAT
Pictorial Charts Educational Trust, 27 Kirchen Road, London W13 0UD.

Both the single large chart, "The Symphony Orchestra", and the eight packs of eight small charts on the instruments of the orchestra, which form part of PCET Charts' autumn collection, are old friends. Hardly a music room in the country has not got similar pictures on the walls.

These - particularly the photographs of the individual instruments - are beautifully clear and a tribute to modern colour photography. They are very "classically" orientated, with only the occasional nod at jazz and rock. This is a pity because the venerable instrumental "families" have to my mind been modified by post-classical practicalities, and these charts are surely wrong to pretend that, for instance, a piano is a percussion instrument or that the organ belongs in the wind family.

Gerald Haigh

notes

DEVELOPMENT SONGS

A new tape pack for use in discussion on a wide range of development issues has been produced by Returned Volunteer Action. The "Bill the Worm" pack consists of a cassette of 14 songs by Steve Spencer on such themes as world trade and the power of the multinational, a song sheet with words and chord music, and a resources list giving details of further reading, games, films and teaching materials.
Price £3.50 plus postage and packing.
Contact: RVA, 1 Amwell Street, London EC1R 1UL (Tel: 01-278 0804).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Order of Christian Unity is offering schools a 60 per cent discount on audio-visual and video materials for use in Religious Education teaching.
The materials are provided by Trinity Video and can be ordered from a

catalogue of over 100 items including filmstrips, cassettes, slide packs and videos. Subjects covered include alcohol, drugs, abortion and class prejudice as well as Old and New Testament studies.

Any school may apply for the subsidy scheme by writing on official school headed note-paper to the scheme administrator, Mrs Lynn Murdoch at Woodrake Cottage, Barley Mow Lane, Tottenham Green, St Albans, Herts AL4 0RP and enclosing a 9 x 6 inch s.a.e.

FILM COSTUMES

A new competition has been launched for British Film Year based on the forthcoming Davis/Panzer film "Highlander". School and art college students are asked to design outfits for the major characters in the film (played by Christopher Lambert, Clancy Brown and Sean Connery), using extracts from the production notes as their starting point.

HALLEY'S COMET

With Halley's Comet in the news, teachers may be interested in the latest handbook published by the Federation of

Astronomical Societies. It lists sources of supply of services and materials likely to be helpful to amateur astronomers and teachers of astronomy, and includes a useful section on places of interest for those planning visits to observatories and planetaria.

Price £2.75 inclusive of postage and packing. Available from Mrs R Naylor, 256 Bacup Road, Todmorden, Lancashire OL14 7HL. Cheques should be made payable to "Federation of Astronomical Societies".

ETA CONFERENCE

The Educational Television Association is holding its Annual Conference at York University from April 7-16 1986. The conference will have a "high tech" theme this year, with sessions being planned on electronic publishing, interactive systems (with accounts of several videodiscs, teletext and videband cable projects in education and training), the BBC "Domesday" project and a look to the future by Colin McCabe of the British Film Institute.

Further details from Pat Kelly, ETA, The King's Manor Exhibition Square, York YO1 2EP (Tel: 0304 29701).

Playalong

Playalong Songs
By Jane Sebba
Price £1.99
Pickwick

This is a two-cassette pack of 35 songs all written and composed by Jane Sebba. They are intended for the pre-school and infant age range, though many older children will enjoy them, and they are all catchy, rhythmic and embody simple educational messages.

I like the songs very much, and children will quickly identify with words such as "On my shoes are a pair of laces" and "I've got a wobbly tooth". Listening to the whole lot at one go is a bit wearing, like eating a big bowl of blackcurrant, but you would not normally do this; in any case the very repetitiveness which annoys the adult listener is both important and delightful to the four-year-old.

Anything at all which simultaneously eases the lot of the infant teacher and enriches her classroom work is to be welcomed, and at this price it would be foolish to pass up this bit of ready-made teacher assistance.

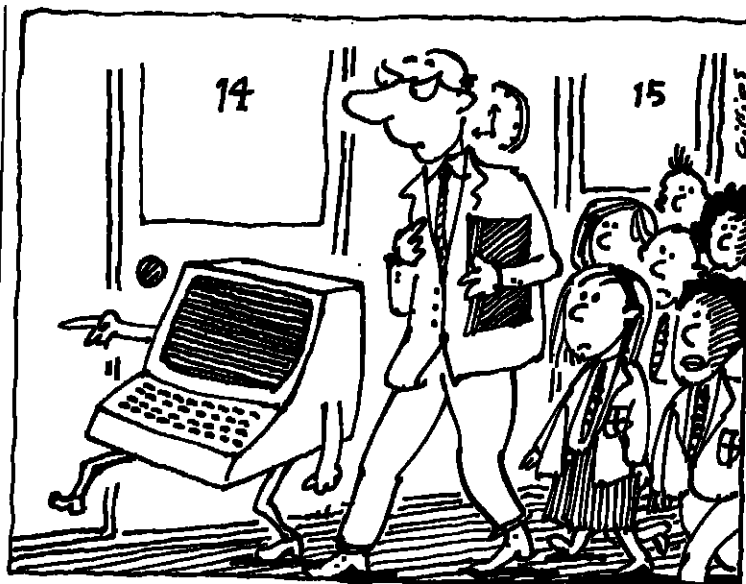
GH

Timetable Database
BBC (B)
£21.95 plus VAT
Cambridge Micro Software

For many years teachers responsible for producing school timetables have considered whether computers could do at least some of this task for them. There are programs running on mainframe computers which offer a complete timetable writing service, but often these programs have not lived up to their initial promise and tend to be rather expensive. They have the additional disadvantage that, since all timetabling is a matter of balancing differing priorities, the timetabler has to admit to public what he regards as important and which principles he is prepared to sacrifice.

A more realistic request is for a computer to be used to store the details of the timetable once written, to check for silly mistakes such as a class being taught in two places at once, and to organize the printing of pupils' and room timetables. *Timetable Database* is an attempt to do at least some of this on a BBC micro.

The program is provided on a single sided dual format disc but comes with another disc of an example timetable. This is either on a 40 track disc or an 80 track disc and must be specified at the time of ordering. Hardware required is claimed to be a BBC (model B) fitted with Acorn 0.9 DFS and 1.0 or later operating system, a VDU (mono or colour), twin drives and a compatible printer capable of printing 132 characters per line. Econet may be fitted to the BBC but is not needed. There is considerable protection against piracy built in to the program and these demands need to be rigidly met. I



Right place, right time

by G Cluer

found a printer, which is BBC compatible and capable of printing 132 character lines, would not work. I suspect that printers have to use Epson control codes. Certainly the school's Epson FX80+ worked with no problems. Luckily Cambridge University Press will supply the program "on approval" so that you can check whether it will run with your system before ordering.

Entering your own data into the program is tedious but this is no fault of the program. Staff codes and names are first entered along with codes for classrooms available (all such codes are a maximum of three letters long). Then, for each teacher for each lesson

the operator enters a three letter code for group taught, three letters for the subject and the room code. Checks are made that each group of pupils starts with a digit from 1 to 7 and that rooms entered exist on the original list of rooms. There is an easy to use editing facility should details need to be corrected later. As data is continually stored on disc as it is entered it is possible to switch off the computer and continue entering data at a later time.

Once all of the data has been entered, a facility allows it to be printed as a "master timetable", that is by year groups. For each period of each day a list is produced for each teaching group. There is no specific check that two teachers have not been assigned to the same group but such clashes are easily spotted in the printout.

Other formats provided are for a list of room occupancy (here there is a check that two classes haven't been allocated the same room), staff deployment (for each period of each day a list of who teaches what in alphabetical order of staff) and individual staff timetables. All of these neatly tabulated in columns.

Two final routines allow for printouts by period of rooms free and staff free. Both of these are invaluable to the person in charge of arranging cover lessons and occasional room changes. On the whole I found this to be a friendly and useful program. The manual is clear and easy to follow and the facilities provided are helpful and likely to save much time as well as producing an easy to read finished result. The cost is very reasonable at £24.50 incl VAT. My only complaint is that the piracy protection prevents the sort of tailoring that a competent computer studies teacher might be asked to do to make it more applicable to a particular school.

Letters

Dear Sir
We write in response to the review of MEP Low Attainers Project software that appeared in the *TES* Extra (October 25). The reviews of the Letters program and the Shops and Supermarket package seem fair, though rather brief. However we were dismayed and disappointed at what appears to be a superficial review of our Maker/User package. I have a number of points we would like to make in reply.

Maker/User is a content free program. As John Bald states in his review the main aim is to extend the use of descriptive vocabulary by encouraging pupils to create and use their own files. Nowhere is it claimed that Maker/User, on its own, will teach new vocabulary. However it would be surprising if, in the course of discussing how to describe objects, an exchange of vocabulary did not take place amongst pupils and with their teacher. The example file "Ages of Man" was, as is stated in the documentation, created by 14-year-old pupils with learning difficulties. It is not meant to be "perfect" and users are encouraged to change the example files in any way they like. The pictures that are included in the support material are not intended to be the sole source of inspiration, merely to illustrate the example files.

We agree that more comprehensive documentation with extensive case studies and more examples of children's work might be beneficial. There is, however, a balance to be struck between the price of a package and the quantity of documentation and support material. We want our programs to be used as widely as possible and they are priced accordingly, well under the price of commercially produced work of a similar standard.

The use of the word "remedial" in the documentation is, we would agree, no longer appropriate.

The generation of ideas for programs and the development, trialling and production of support material is all done by teachers who are involved in the Low Attainers Project. It is a pity that John Bald could not do justice to their efforts by trying Maker/User with a group of children and reporting their reactions.

Finally we would point out a couple of errors and omissions. Both the Shops and Supermarket package, which includes four programs, and Maker/User come with a substantial pack of very good quality, copyright free, support material. Unfortunately Maker/User is only available for the BBC model B.

PHIL BENNINGTON and ANN MUXWORTHY
MEP Low Attainers Project
Wideopen Middle School
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
DAVID KING
Manager, Special Needs Software Centre.

John Bald writes: *MakesUser has a limited and inflexible format and was poorly presented, particularly through the lifeless drawings in the "support materials". I would require much more convincing evidence of the benefits which can be derived from the program before I could use or recommend it.*

In praise of ULPs

by Tony Gray

At everyday things. "And it works very well. The way in which the children's programs are created and edited is well thought through and I especially liked the option to "see it more slowly" which even older children would find useful. The pack can lead on to other work and could form part of an introduction to LOGO.

Griddle & Matchplay, published by Clockwork Computing at £15.50 (double pack) and £9.20 (single), are games for early learners. *Griddle* deals with shape recognition and early counting skills. A grid of 4, 9, 16 or 36 boxes is displayed which "covers" a picture. By correctly matching shapes, or number of blocks to numeral, the picture is progressively revealed.

Matchplay is a variation on Kim's game, matching characters with their locations in a picture. Both programs employ graphics and are quite workmanlike, although it was surprising to be asked to check that SHIFT LOCK was off when this can be easily done in the software. The overall effect is colourful and quite jolly. Good fun for young children without being exceptional. The pricing and presentation of these two packs captures in a nutshell

the current problems of the educational software market. The minor cost of creating and distributing a piece of educational software is around £10,000. The open market cannot support this level of initial cost. Why? Look at these two packs. Clockwork Computing is a small outfit struggling to sell unsubsidized ULP software in direct competition with MEP and L.E.A. producers. MEP is a government organization which absorbs the real costs of producing ULP software and sells it at subsidized prices. And they have a network of contacts to distribute and advertise it at a low cost. Hence Clockwork's pack is twice the price of the MEP material despite their being of about equal worth to teachers. Even large commercial publishers are pulling out of software because of this problem.

Hopefully, the new DTI software scheme will help combat this problem. If things don't change, with the demise of MEP the L.E.A.s will have to fund all new software production; and development of new ideas will almost grind to a halt because of the costs involved. If that happens, we won't have any major packages at all. Just ULPs.

Protein properties

by Sophie McCormick

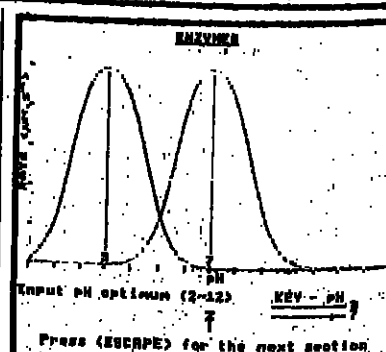
are described in some detail. The sequences provide interesting visual displays but offer little more than a good text book and considerably less than user controlled video sequences which could deal with three dimensional structure much more effectively than a computer screen. However, the material provides an alternative approach, a revision exercise or additional display material.

The structure and activity of enzymes is described using multicoloured space invader style terms to represent the enzymes and substrates (the sound effects can be switched off).

The various factors affecting enzyme activity, temperature, pH, substrate concentration, enzyme concentration and inhibitors are dealt with in separate similar sections. Introductory text and a graph describe how each factor affects the enzyme activity. The user is then able to select values for the particular factor under consideration and see the effect on the reaction rate.

followed in each case by a simulation, an animation sequence for which the user can again modify the particular factor and see the effect pictorially. A final simulation of enzyme activity allows the values of any of the factors to be set to find out the best combination of conditions set and to give a reasonable visual explanation of what is happening. Nine multicoloured questions in the last section cover points raised through the program and the choice of returning to specific parts is required.

The program is designed to be very easy to use: ESCAPE and SPACE BAR are mainly the only controls required. The screen displays, however, although adequate are rather outdated in appearance and sometimes slow in response. The combination of styles adopted moreover seem somewhat inconsistent with the level of detail and conceptual understanding inherent in the biological content of the material. It is possible that the



In Trust - Houses and Heritage

C4
Dec 10
6.00-7.00pm

Why do visitors flock to country houses? Nostalgia for the more stable societies of the past or dreams of ownership? Perhaps the pleasure of coming across the unexpected, a piece of kitchen equipment or bedroom furniture that evokes an earlier way of life. *In Trust*, apparently, set out to explore the question and ends by doing something quite different. Like a tourist who gives a cursory sniff at the collection of 18th-century china before settling down to tea in the herb garden restaurant, Robert Robinson sweeps us up the extensive drive to Castle Drogo in a natty straw hat, ignoring the Lutyen architecture in favour of a cosy chat with the present incumbent. This is the grandson of Julius Drewe, who spent the proceeds of the bacon counters at Home and Colonial Stores on erecting this monstrously on Dartmoor. Well, perhaps more a mammoth production, a twentieth-century folly, with the appeal of a Hollywood studio lot.

The grandson has some harsh words for the Venetian glass crated home from Julius' honeymoon and exhibited in, emphatically, "not Lutyens' best room". Building Castle Drogo was, surely, the most pleasant part of the great though once young visitor, as its medieval defences went up, is said to have remarked that Mr Drewe must



In trust

by Robin Buss

have had a lot of enemies. His grandson, saddled with this pile, could well be one of them.

Emerging from the castle, Robert Robinson interrogates a couple of the other guests (who, presumably, are not invited to smash grandfather's Venetian goblets). One admits to

being "rather jealous" another wonders if she would really want to own the place. But Robinson seems keener to get into the grounds past hedges "that dare you to walk up the steps to the croquet lawns... like packing cases waiting to be opened". I didn't see it, myself, but Castle Drogo incites such fanciful notions.

What Robinson discovers are the occupiers, not the visitors. Heirs, like Drewe of Castle Drogo or Sir Richard Acland who, converted by reading J.M. Keynes, gave Kilkentony away to the National Trust, together with an estate liberally scattered across the countryside between the English and Bristol Channels, or Compton Castle, where the Gilberts, "monkeys in the zoo", eat tea under the admiring gaze of the paying public, most of whom probably do find the inhabitants more stimulating than the buildings. An exhibition of aristocratic dining like French Kings before their admiring court, could hardly fail.

The most endearing of these National Trust tenants is American architect Robert Parsons. He has devoted his life to restoring Newark Park, a Tudor hunting lodge much interfered with by subsequent generations whose respect for authenticity fell short of ours. He found the house in an appalling state and "felt sorry for it". The reasons for living in National Trust properties, the programme suggests, may be as varied as the reasons for viewing them.

Picture: Robert Robinson with Anthony Drew at Castle Drogo

Successful study

by Richard Evans

SCHOOL RADIO
Help Yourself To Study Skills
BBC Radio 4 VHF/FM
Thurs 5 and Fri 6 December '85
Repeats next year
Teacher's notes (£1.00) from Graham Taylor
BBC School Radio 1, Portland Place
London W1A 1AA

Homework, revision, skimming a book and note-taking are just some of the study skills covered in this new four-part series aimed at upper secondary and FE/HE students. Many post-16 students, whether at A level, pre-vocational or degree/diploma level, teachers and lecturers will find each twenty minute programme of particular help in the teaching and acquisition of study skills and the actual planning of work before examinations and other forms of assessment.

The programmes can be used by students in a class or as a seminar group with the possibility of discussion afterwards on the strategies and merits of the study skills included. Individuals can work through the programmes at their own pace. What is good about the series' general approach is that it progresses at a brisk pace, is clear in its use of language and is realistic in assumptions about what young people want. Of course the ways of planning a revision timetable are important. Students also want to hear other students saying why they work better at night or in the morning, with or without music, or how they organize the writing of an essay and whether

they leave it to the last moment. These are real concerns and the programmes reflect them.

Each programme has two parts linked to helpful teacher's notes and

Started" - considers the transition from directed teaching to the more usual post-16 practice of giving students free periods and more control over creating the conditions for their own learning. Programme Two - "Resources and Reading" - looks at how to use resources outside school such as museums, libraries and local businesses, and at how to use books. Programme Three - "Writing" - raises key questions on note-taking and essay-writing. Programme Four - "Organisation, Revision and Exams" - speaks for itself. A good series, which would work best as one element of several in a general study skills course.

Canal journey

by David Self

On the Cut
BBC Local Radio.

Anyone embarking on our canals by way of a classroom project (or featuring them as part of a history, geography or social studies course) would do well to listen out for *On the Cut*. This new 10-part radio documentary series reflects the life, work and trade of our first national transport system.

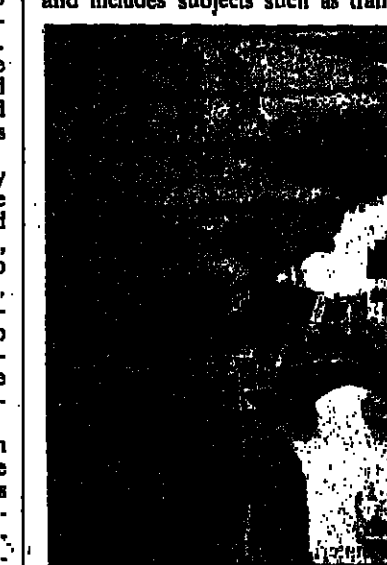
It has been made by Arthur Wood, education producer at BBC Radio Stoke, who claims to have been fascinated by canals since the age of two. When he was recently required by the BBC to work in London, he travelled down on his own narrow boat, moored it at Camden Lock and so solved his accommodation problem.

However, *On the Cut* dispels any romantic image the canals may have acquired of late and illustrates instead the hardships endured by the navvies, carriers, gangers and lock keepers to whom the canals were a way of life. The historical aspect of the discrepancy between north and south also becomes apparent, as do the engineering innovations resulting from the need to overcome various geographical features of our landscape.

The series is now being broadcast on Sundays on BBC Radio WM. In the new year it can be heard on Radios Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Devon, Lancashire, Newcastle, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Shropshire and Stoke.

Teachers might like to note incidentally that many BBC local radio stations possess tape archives which are available for school use. In particular, such facilities are available at Radios Bristol, Newcastle and Sussex. BBC Radio Cumbria has prepared a catalogue of tapes on the 2-300 topics most often requested by schools. According to education producer Nigel Holmes, it features programmes on "environmental studies in the broadest sense", and includes subjects such as transport, power, local customs, fairs, water and the sea.

BBC Radio Merseyside also publishes a catalogue of the tapes it has available for use by schools. Among the 200 topics listed is the station's own series on inland waterways, *Discovering Canals*. This catalogue is available from the education producer at BBC Radio Merseyside, 35 Paradise Street, Liverpool L1 3BP, for the cost of a large size. Tapes can be borrowed and copied free of charge.



MEDIA

Mini-soap?

by Hugh David

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Jonny Briggs
BBC-1, Monday, 4.45pm; Tuesday 4.15pm.



Jonny Briggs played by Richard Hollan

The week the BBC announced details of *Jonny Briggs* was the week when, after less than a year, *EastEnders* dislodged *Coronation Street* from both first and second places in the BARB ratings. Soaps were in and the joy unconfined in the BBC press office. Some of it seeped out in the publicity handout. *Jonny Briggs* was "a mini-soap for mini-viewers", it announced.

It really isn't, despite the fact that the series has been scripted by Valerie Georgeon, one of the regular team of *EastEnders* writers. It is a twice-weekly, 15-minute serial for five to eight-year-olds, and none the worse for that.

Based on Joan Eadington's very popular stories (highly successful when

programmes take a wryly sympathetic look at the life of young Jonny in an unnamed northern town. At home he is the lowest of the low, the one who has to have his Cornflakes dry because our Albert, our Humphrey and our Rita have taken all the milk. His only friend is Razzle, the family mongrel.

In his light, bright, post-Plowden primary school he is the one who has old applescores in his book tray. He is not picked on by Miss Broom, the harassed class teacher, but he can't get away with much because Jonny and Josie, the terrible twins at the next table, are watching his every move.

It is all very low key. Although each episode ends with a sort of cliff-hanger they are not of the *EastEnders* kind. Young Jonny is much more concerned with the fate of the school rabbit than with the everyday story of burglary, murder and unplanned pregnancy with which the proper soaps concern themselves. Because of this, the series has a considerable realism. The Briggs home looks like a family home. Jonny's school (though rather quieter than many) is a real, recognizable primary school.

Most significantly, Jonny himself is a believable boy, not wholly bad or good; one of the silent majority in any class. "You didn't have to act at all, did you? You're just like Jonny", journalists said to 10-year-old Richard Hollan at the preview. He wasn't so sure, he said, but his family life was rather like Jonny's. It seemed too good to be true: the BBC's claim that *Jonny Briggs* was a real soap opera seemed to have been borne out after all. But then Richard spilt everything. He didn't have a dog like Razzle, he said. Until very recently he had kept an iguana. Even Valerie Georgeon wouldn't dare invent something like that.

briefings

radio & tv

For schools

LISTENING TO MUSIC

(Monday-Friday, 11.00 VHF4)
This series for 11 to 13-year-olds uses a magazine format to explore the creative process and the approach of modern performers to works by Rossini, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns and Tchaikovsky.

ENCORE LINE ÉTAPE

(Monday-Friday, 11.40 VHF4)
Further graded objectives resource material for use with secondary pupils and older students. Worksheets are in the teacher's notes and a wide variety of topics include: speaking your mind, getting things done, staying alive and getting together.

DEUTCHES MAGAZIN

(Monday-Friday, 14.00 VHF6)
A new series for those about to take O level or CSE. Each magazine programme features one exam-related subject laced with a good deal of music.

BOOKS, PLAYS, POEMS

(Monday-Friday, 14.30 VHF4)
A selection of short stories set by three examining boards. Presented in dramatized form are Conrad's 'The Secret Sharer', Lawrence's 'Odour of Chrysanthemums', Green's 'The Destructors', Thurber's 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty', Hemingway's 'Indian Camp' and Steinbeck's 'The Raid'.

Continuing education and general interest

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

(Sunday, 21.15 CA)
"Leave it to Jim" is the penultimate programme in this series in which Robert Kee charts his way through the changes in British politics in the 70s. Here he assesses what Callaghan achieved and the consequences of his defeat both for the country and the Labour Party.

BRINGING UP PARENTS

(Sunday, 22.15 R4)
The Greenwell Young People's Theatre got together 24 young people to create and perform a play. The result made in conjunction with West German Radio is a documentary where the young people talk frankly about their home lives, parents and their first dramatic work experience.

GREAT EXPERIMENTS

(Tuesday, 17.35 BBC2)
Professor Heinz Wolff considers the problems of navigation in the 16th and 17th centuries.

THE MAKING OF COMRADES

(Wednesday, 19.30 BBC2)
Mark Frankland, adviser for "Comrades", explains the background to the making of this series about the Soviet Union.

40 MINUTES

(Thursday, 21.30 BBC2)
"Our Man in Shanghai" follows Trevor Mount as he re-opens the British Consulate in the Chinese city closed in 1949.

Times Available For Recording From Sunday 8th December 1985
Approximate Transmission Times.

Sunday 8th December	Monday 9th December	Tuesday 10th December	Wednesday 11th December	Thursday 12th December
10.00pm POF's Five Code B	11.00pm Tapes Of The Past: Part 1: Part One Code D	7.30pm Right to Reply: Part One Code A	7.30pm A Week In Politics: Part One Code B	7.30pm The Phenomenon: Part One Code C
11.00pm The Business Programme: Part One Code F				
11.30pm The Writing on the Wall: Leave it to Jim: Part One Code E				

Monday 9th December
4.15pm What the Media Don't Tell: Part Two - Report: Part One Code H

Tuesday 10th December
7.45pm Years Ahead: Part One Code I

Wednesday 11th December
4.15pm Looking Into Politics: Part One Code C
4.30pm Dreams: Report: Part One Code J

For more information contact:

GUILD LICENSING
6 Hayes Road, Peterborough PE1 5VB
(0753) 51001

Late Changes (0723) 216162

Jacob and Wilhelm

An exhibition of British editions of the Grimm Brothers' tales is now open at the British Library. Brian Alderson, who compiled it, explains the underlying purpose.

"The Brothers Grimm" are so often talked of as a single entity that one may be forgiven for thinking of them as monstrous Siamese twins in garters and cravats. In fact, they were not twins, although their birth-dates were so close as to give something of the same effect and they were inseparable for most of their long and laborious working lives.

Jacob was born on January 4, 1785, and Wilhelm on February 24, 1786, which dates have given rise - in Germany anyway - to some elaborate bicentenary celebrations. Tours through "the Grimm country" have been on offer (most English readers will imagine dark coaches rattling through even darker forests). Commemorative works have been published - not least a handsome pictorial biography by Gabriele Selz, *Die Brüder Grimm* (Winkler Verlag), and a paperback edition of the great German dictionary in 33 volumes (DTV). Exhibitions have been criss-crossing the country from Berlin to Cassel to Hanau to Marburg. (The publishers Weber & Weidenmeyer have even had the bright idea of issuing the catalogues for the three major exhibitions as a boxed set. For a modest £5DM you can get a quite remarkable series of studies of the life and political activity of Jacob and Wilhelm, together with an excellent introduction to the work of one of their lesser-known siblings, the artist Ludwig Emil.)

It is not surprising that much of the excitement should be confined to Germany, since the Grimms' prodigious energy and scholarship was largely devoted to developing a strong humanist base for the pursuit of Germanic studies. On the other hand, they are figures of world renown through their activity as the collectors and editors of folktales and it is a little surprising that the world has not done more to recognize its debt to them during this

bicentenary year. The famous *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, which were first published in 1812 have been translated, at a conservative count, into 40 languages, but I haven't been able to discover much excitement over the fact among us foreign beneficiaries - although this may be a backhanded complimentary acknowledgment that "Grimm's Fairy Tales" are so much a part of the landscape that their begetters have disappeared into the underbrush (except, of course, for the teasing peculiarity of their name).

It is worth recalling, however, that in Britain we can claim something of a "special relationship" to the Grimms and their tales. We played a small part in the early history of the enterprise and we have long fostered a sympathy for the cranky business of folklore, which they almost invented. It was therefore a timely gesture of the British Library to devote part of their exhibitions programme this autumn to a small display that shows the reception and the later treatment of the Grimm stories in this country.

In planning the exhibition for the Library I had two main purposes in mind. The first of these was to note the interconnecting links between the Grimms and their tales. The second was to publish, in a copy of the first German edition, presented by Jacob Grimm to Walter Scott, and lodged in his library at Abbotsford; but several other exhibits show how far the first English translation, made by Edgar Taylor in 1823 and illustrated with engravings by George Cruikshank, inspired the Grimms towards publishing the first illustrated edition for German children.)

My second purpose was to show what happened to the tales in England once people got accustomed to this quite new phenomenon of a large

published collection of near-authentic popular stories. On the one hand this gave me a chance to discuss the very under-researched subject of the history of translation - for many of the editions and chains of editions of the Grimm stories are quite dreadful representations of their originals. On the other hand it gave me a chance to show the varying ways in which the tales have been treated by book-producers; especially those who have been able to measure up to Cruikshank (or to Ludwig Emil Grimm, for that matter) but, as the publishing of Grimm has accelerated into an industrial process, the varying editions provide a fascinating vista of the differing techniques and the differing interpretive approaches in the picturing of fairy tales.

The exhibition is not large enough to explore any of these topics in great depth, but I hope that it will cause some who look at it to ponder over relationships between how we see them and how we allow translators and artists to do the seeing for us. I hope too that it will amount to an acknowledgment - however modest and belated - of our debt to a pair of majestic scholars.

The exhibition is open till January 26 and is accompanied by a leaflet of *Exhibition Notes* for visitors.

Above: 'Storytale Wife', an etching by Ludwig Emil Grimm from the second German edition of the tales, 1819.



Crossover

Keith McCulloch on the academic value of the history of science

The *Classics of Science*. A study of Twelve Enduring Scientific Works. By Derek Gjersten. Lillan Barber Press £20 and £12.95. 0 936508 09 4.

John Thorne, the retiring head master of Winchester, in an important article in *Time and Tide*, recently put once more the case for a core curriculum in sixth forms which would constitute a shared, liberal education. What subject or subjects (he asked) are fit to queen it over the frightened remains of the curriculum? Once the obvious choice was Classics; but then once Classicists knew English literature as well as they knew Latin and Greek, whereas now they have become specialists and therefore Philistines. In the end he plumped for a combination of English and history of science.

One does not have to share Thorne's enthusiasm for the ideal of a liberal education to see the merits of history of science as a sixth form subject. It is at the very least a "crossover" subject which straddles the divide between what it used to be fashionable to call the "two cultures"; so long as boys and girls elect to study exclusively science or exclusively arts A levels (or are forced to by the exigencies of the timetable), we ought to try to do something to bridge the gap between them; most sixth formers are in any case forced to attend General Studies classes of one kind or another, and history of science might be more valuable than some of the other subjects on offer.

On the whole arts students have a stronger and sharper conception of the historical and cultural processes which have landed us up where we are than do science students; but on the other hand, they know little or nothing of the aspect of human endeavour which has been at least as significant as art and culture.

Scientists, for their part, are all too inclined to take the laws and theories they learn for granted (after all, the syllabus is stretching enough without expanding it unnecessarily); they ought at least to be more sceptical (as study of science's past errors tends to make one), and there is a persuasive view which suggests that fully to understand a concept is to grasp its history, so that without the history of science their understanding even of science as it stands today can only be partial.

In spite of all this, history of science does not seem to be a very popular option. The University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate has for the last few years offered an A0 in the subject, and the number of candidates has hovered around 100. The syllabus is rather frighteningly broad, covering the philosophy and social relations of science, the scientific revolution, and a number of special topics. No one book covers the whole ground, so that it could be used as a text book, but Derek Gjersten's *The Classics of Science* would certainly be a very useful book to have on one's shelf.

In theory he is particularly concerned with the notion of a classic of science, in the sense of a text which has achieved a classic status, so he considers only the one text by each of his 12 scientists (regrettably in the case of Galileo, perhaps, but tending to greater clarity elsewhere), and gives prominence to its publishing history. (He is especially good on the way Euclid, in one of his many editions, dominated the teaching of mathematics in Britain in the 19th century.)

In practice, though, he does much more, giving the background to the composition of his text (more than usually interesting in the case of Newton, of course), expounding its doctrines (very with unusual force and clarity), and considering in some detail later developments (post-Euclidean geometries, for example). All in all, in his slightly dull but clear and unpretentious way, Gjersten says about as much as one could hope to know about Hippocrates, Euclid, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Versallius, Galileo, Harvey, Newton, Linnaeus, Dalton, Lyell and Darwin in a single volume. Perhaps it could be a text book after all.

I and I vibrations

Victoria Neumark eavesdrops on a conference about the future of English

"What do they know of English who only English know?" asked Richard Altopp, bending Kipling to question *The Future of the English Language in the Commonwealth* at a recent conference sponsored by the English Speaking Union at the Commonwealth Institute. Dr Altopp, the first person to present the study of the Caribbean Creole in his MA at University College London and unquestionably the star of the conference, was eloquent in protesting the current diffusion of English as world commercial language on the one hand and endlessly divergent means of local expression on the other, as not only an inevitable consequence of its historical spread and adaptable structure but also a desirable product for the many cultures who cross-fertilize its richness. Dr Altopp is master-minding his Caribbean Lexicography Project to take account of the flexibility of Creole, though himself a wizard with the international variety.

Other speakers, such as Braj Kachru of the University of Illinois, with his definitions of "inner", "outer" and "boundary-crossing" for both linguistic groups, were keen to develop no linguistic community - this was after all, the Commonwealth Institute. But there was a strong rear-guard traditionalist movement, most quaffily voiced by the lady from the English Speaking Union who demanded to know if the panel thought "we were winning the battle", and more trenchantly by Professor John Honey who upheld strict adherence to standards in the passport to linguistic competence

even for regional users of Creole, pidgin, Ocker, and so on. And the final guest speaker, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Mauritius, revived the cat of grammar and fluency among the gathered pigeons of "creole" rather than literature, "nation language" before cultural imperialism, and poetry, in general, before prose precision.

In fact, as in most such arguments, the debate about standards and validity of dialects was only skin-deep. All the speakers, it pressed, even the heavily academic and argonized Christopher Candlin, professor of linguistics at Lancaster University, or the pragmatic David Liaton from the Department of Trade, seemed to agree that an international standard would be needed for international transactions and that regional variations had their place in the domestic and self-expressive sphere. As Neville Grant, freelance textbook writer, pointed out, the notion of "code-switching" could synthesize all points of view. But being torn, as the poet Derek Walcott has written "between this Africa and the English that I love" is a political and social dilemma as well as a linguistic one, and if the speakers were briefer to pass over these dimensions, there was no lack of speakers from the floor to point them out. Again, it was Dr Altopp who put his finger on the nub of it in quoting Paulo Freire: "How can I dialogue if I start from the premise that the world is the prerogative of the elite?" However, Dr Altopp, unlike many of his white supporters, did not push his perspective of the political dimensions of

language and control of language into confrontation but upheld the growing support of the Rastafari movement in the West Indies as a new fusion of African and English linguistic modes with a smiling "I and I vibration, yeah, positive!"

Next to these suppressed passions, the disputes over language teaching seemed tame. John Sinclair, professor of linguistics at Birmingham University, started and annoyed quite a few teachers by dismissing their classroom practice as no more than "a loose consensus of hunches", based on "bright ideas with a few examples" rather than currently linguistic theories. Professor Sinclair's insistence on analysing masses of text via computer appeared sketchy when his own example using "second" did not throw up "never gave it a second thought" as well as "had second thoughts" and he himself proved unwilling to the suggestion of its inclusion. What texts was he using? No answer was forthcoming, and despite his claim to make all his results available to teachers, it appeared he exemplified the malaise he deplored of linguists turning to their own preoccupations, when he complained that teachers never sought his material out. There did seem to be a general cynicism among language teachers about linguistics. They felt that their training and classroom experience was all played in favour of whatever work set from day to day, whatever was heard at the moment with that particular class group who had sprung into life at a given hour of the blue.

Like the BBC, whose English

by Radio and Television was presented by Barry Tomalin and Joe Hambrook, proceeded to make its programmes by African and English linguistic modes with a smiling "I and I vibration, yeah, positive!"

The literature of the Commonwealth, lovingly catalogued by Dr Alastair Niven (currently at the Association of Commonwealth Universities), and its manifold varieties of English usage, examined by the conference in a number of syndicate workshops, seem proof, at any rate, that even if the many "outer circle" speakers may feel "dissonance deep in the words of Edward Brathwaite's poem, yet they are contributing to the linguistic flexibility and variety that began in the melting of Anglo-Saxon under French which has made the English language today not merely the most prevalent tool for ordering aircraft parts but also a tongue for Rastafarian poets and politicians.

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Pastoral

Have you recently been, or are you shortly going, to an interview for a geography post? The head might challenge you to justify your subject. "Look, I have a very real timetable problem. All my staff demand extra time for their subjects, yet I have to introduce personal and social education, vocational studies and computer studies. Can you tell me why I should retain all the geography periods on the timetable?—because something has to go!"

Put down the *Times Ed.* for a few minutes and think out your short, snappy and convincing argument. Actually, you may already have done this in the recent staff debate leading up to the preparation of your school curriculum statement. You will recall that the DES in Circular 8/81 instructed schools and local authorities to "develop their curricula, setting out in writing the aims which they pursue through the organization of the curriculum and teaching programmes" by October 1983. This statement will undoubtedly be the first evidence considered by HM Inspectors in any forthcoming inspection of your school. Even if the statement is already prepared, and you are happy with the "geography" rationale, you cannot be complacent, since Circular 8/83 clearly states that the Secretary of State "regards the process of implementing Circular 8/81 as a continuing one" and that "he will inquire in due course about subsequent developments." For instance, he requires a "whole curriculum" approach, providing "breadth, balance, differentiation and relevance"—and geography also has to meet these requirements.

This brings us back to the lead question: "Can you justify geography?" If, as the headteacher says, "something has to go" you will have to argue that geography is at least as important as certain other subjects, because the head may not be prepared to reduce the time spent on the DES "core" subjects English, mathematics, science, modern languages, RE and PE. The only crumb of comfort is that the DES states that the curriculum

Can you justify geography?

by Nigel Proctor

humanities"; but when it comes down to naming subjects, we all know Sir Keith's personal preference—and if you don't, your colleagues in the history department will be only too pleased to enlighten you. The fact that 16-plus geography is third or fourth in numbers of candidates for CSE/GCE examinations (with equivalent standing in university admission figures) is irrelevant to the primary school head or the secondary head planning the curriculum for the lower school. You could organize your argument around educational objectives—conceptual knowledge, skills and attitudes—as is done so effectively in the geography paper in the HMI series of the geography 11-16 subject statements. But for discussion purposes, a more concise view can be built around the simplest possible meaning of the word "geography" as "the description of the earth".

The geo- of geography

One of only six basic aims of schools recognised by the DES in *The School Curriculum* is "to help pupils to understand the world in which they live, and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations". Again, the Warnock Report advocated a curriculum for children with special needs which included essential knowledge "about the world in which they are growing up". Arguably these aims can best be achieved through geography, with studies at different scales—local, regional, national and global. But adopting these aims would mean that geographical study could never be resorted to conceptual knowledge and understanding of theoretical spatial patterns, processes and linkages. We are also expected to teach that the

population, over-exploitation and pollution, is still "wonderful" or more descriptively "full of wonder". Patten (Geography, Vol. 6, 1979) suggested that "in our preoccupation with strict empirical thought and method, we have short-changed several generations of students by giving them the model rather than the reality... Let us welcome anything which will increase that opportunity to wonder, and to weep, over the world of man". We are part of a multicultural, world society and geographers have a duty to open a window onto some crucial, contentious global issues; the critical and humanistic approaches help us to focus our minds on this new perspective and challenge.

The graph- of geography

Many ways are used by geographers to describe, analyse and communicate information about the world; quantification allowed us to bring greater precision to studies which had relied too long on the written and spoken word. But geography should still stress the graphic means of communication referred to as "graphicacy". As Balchin in his presidential address to the Geography Teachers' Association (1972) stated: "The simple fact is that without spatial documents—landscape drawings, ground photographs, air photographs, maps, plans and diagrams—geography would not be geography and our appreciation and understanding of geographical problems would be seriously impoverished".

Graphicacy is not only important to geography. It plays a vital part in the education of all children, since it is a basic communication skill, representing one of the prerequisites for learning alongside literacy, oracy and numeracy. In a new psychology book,

endorsed by Jerome Bruner, entitled *Frames of mind: the theory of multiple intelligences* (Hiekenmann), Howard Gardner states that there are three other intelligences, in addition to the over-emphasized verbal and logical-mathematical intelligences, which could be used to help children in activities across the curriculum. One of these is a spatial intelligence, intrinsically linked with graphicacy, and geographers have a responsibility to develop these skills and abilities in all children.

The integration in geography

Geography is more broadly based than any other subject since it provides a wide coverage of three of the essential elements of the curriculum: science (particularly earth science and ecology), humanities (including a whole range of perspectives from anthropology to demography and sociology), and mathematics (including topology and simple techniques such as sampling and correlation). Inter-disciplinary programmes rarely offer this range of applied studies since they normally comprise groupings of "like" subjects, such as humanities, or creative arts.

Secondly, geography represents a discipline, with all the educational benefits that term implies, such as a sequential structure for developing skills—particularly in mapwork and fieldwork—alongside an accepted and established purpose and rationale. The discipline derives from restricting the parameters of the subject to a spatial dimension and perspective, comparable with history's temporal focus. Children quickly recognize and appreciate this focus.

Some will undoubtedly maintain that the argument advanced here is

superficial, omitting major aspects of our work. What about, for instance, Patten's four traditions in geography—the spatial, area-studies, human and earth-science traditions—and the relative merits of the subject's various paradigms? I would suggest that these are "in-house" arguments, and not particularly useful in general discussion with non-specialists. Others will feel that insufficient emphasis is placed on the value of the local area—that "geography is relevant and interesting because it is all around us". However, while still convinced of the value of local studies, I still recall one in-service session in which I was stressing their use—"from the known to the unknown"—when one teacher from an inner city clearance area indicated that the last thing his pupils wanted to study was the local area and its immediate problems; they were far more interested in exotic worlds such as the Amazon Basin and preferred studying other people's problems. Finally some teachers will want to stress the cross-curricular benefits derived from a study of geography—"it is so useful in developing children's language and numeracy skills"; the problem here is that so many other subjects also provide these opportunities so the argument cannot really strengthen geography's case.

I see three parts of my argument, built around the simplest meaning of "geography", as representing unique properties of the subject which justify its place on the curriculum. Geographers have witnessed enormous changes involving new insights, approaches, ideas and techniques, but the majority have retained a sincere belief in the inherent value of their subject and in the contribution it makes to children's education. This enthusiasm has characterized the subject throughout this century and will doubtless be a feature of its continued progress into the 21st century.

Nigel Proctor is a senior lecturer at Didsbury School of Education, Manchester Polytechnic.

Urbs et Rure

The GA Annual Conference, 1-3 April 1986
(King's College, London)

For many GA members, the forthcoming conference promises to be even more action-packed than last, with the main themes being highly topical and focusing on curriculum change and urban and rural social problems.

The first day at the Royal Geographical Society includes the World-wide finals, the AGM and the tripartite lecture. On Wednesday 2nd April the conference switches to King's College for the main programme and features workshops and symposia on values teaching, geography and industry, curriculum developments at 5 to 16 and 19. Other sessions centre on the topical issues of geography and the media and a discussion on safety in field work. Lectures on that day concentrate on rural topics with Ian Mercer (Dartmoor national park officer), Marion Shoard (author of *Thrift of the Countryside*) and Richard Munton (of green belt fame).

The following day, Thursday 3rd April, offers workshops including simulation games in environmental education, IVEI and the Domesday

Project. A whole session is devoted to an in-depth workshop on GCSE. Lectures on that day focus on urban issues and include David Hall (RTPI) on inner city planning, David Herbert on urban social problems and the Macmillan lecture given by David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council, on the future of urban government. An international flavour is provided by Bob Bradnock's talk on urban planning in the Third World and by Caroline Moser's film, *People of the Barrio*, on slum dwellers in Guayaquil, Ecuador, followed by a discussion with the maker.

Other attractions include the largest exhibition of geography books and teaching resources in the country, an auction of maps, a special reception for new members, field excursions to London docklands and the Hammersmith urban studies centre and, of course, the president's reception.

Further details in the conference programme and from: David Green, Dept of Geography, King's College, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

Pedagogical bookshelf

Geographical Education for a Multi-Cultural Society. Edited by Rex Walford.

The Geographical Association. £5.75. £2.50 to GA members 0 90039589 3. Weather Education. Edited by J. M. Walker.

Royal Meteorological Society 0 948090 00 6.

Teaching Slow Learners through Geography. Edited by Graham Corney and Eleanor Rawling.

The Geographical Association. £5.95. £3.95 to GA members 0 90039593 1. Geography, Schools and Industry. Edited by Graham Corney.

The Geographical Association. £7.95. £4.95 to GA members 0 90039591 5. The Geographer at Work. By Peter Gould.

Routledge and Kegan Paul. £8.95 0 7102 0494 9.

The most original of these books for the pedagogical bookshelf is Peter Gould's absorbing, if idiosyncratic, study, *The Geographer at Work*. Not that it has been written for teachers. Far from it. Geography has changed. Professor Gould wants to tell the world all about it.

The aim has been to bring "the exciting story of contemporary geography to a much wider audience". Most geographers would agree that "it is difficult to think of any field that is so alive, so full of potential, so capable of engaging many of the important problems that face the human family in its planetary home".

Yet most non-geographers are unaware of its scope, techniques and methodology. For far too many, geography is about maps; to be contemptuously dismissed as a Second Division subject, ripe for relegation and lacking the glamorous prestige of the First Division. How many prestigious geographers have you seen recently on television?

This is an ideal book to place in the hands of the good A level student who thinks he/she might like to read geography at university—or, possibly, the headteacher or CEO who would like to know more about the "new geography" of models, concepts and statistics. Some concessions will have to be made for the transatlantic experience and the extravagances of style. But I, for one, can only admire an academic who can describe the wealthy professional people who "live up to 150 kilometres from downtown New York, and use a train, a chauffeur-driven limousine or a helicopter to get there each day. I personally think they are crazy, but you have to admit that the friction of distance is pretty low for them." Now that's the way to put over a concept!

All the other books are compilations with contributions from a range of educationalists. *Geographical Education for a Multi-Cultural Society* contains a large number of useful

appendices (checklist, bibliography, resource list, etc.) prefaced by a relatively short report which summarises the recommendations of the working party, set up by the Geographical Association to study the issues raised by this crucial and ever-topical debate.

Rightly they place as their opening thesis the reminder that "it is unhelpful and inadequate to make a response to the issues raised by this debate because I don't have any black/white/Asian pupils in my school".

This book is helpful and adequate and should do much to offer constructive advice and encouragement to all geographers who wish to play their distinctive part "in educating for life in multi-cultural Britain".

Teaching Slow Learners through Geography offers specific help to those faced with yet another thorny problem in school and one affecting a significant number of pupils. This, too, may not be your problem, but the ideas in this book may surely be of value to all involved in the teaching of geography, since a variety of contributors have filled the book with descriptions of classroom-tested teaching strategies, learning activities and skills development with slow learners.

Geography, Schools and Industry reviews some of the general aspects of this subject and shows "that there is considerable potential for geography teachers to contribute". The contributors to this book do this by providing examples of good current practice, both in secondary schools and in higher education. The various papers include "An Industrialist's Viewpoint", the effects on a geography teacher of a year's secondment in the gas industry, industrial fieldwork and specific classroom learning situations.

Lastly the weather. *Weather Education* is wide-ranging in its scope, with topics ranging from "The Rainbow in the Classroom of the Primary School" (from a Dutch contributor) to "Mid-Latitude El Niño in the Teaching of African Climatology". This last is by a Durham geographer, who confesses that "teaching for the first time in the southern hemisphere, I had to call on the students to remind me that movement around a low was clockwise".

This is an illuminating and readable compendium, reflecting a range of different experiences and styles, from the relatively pedantic to the exotic: "We in a sky-averse and weather-aware population will indeed do plenty about the weather".

Refreshingly, the contributions do not require expert meteorological knowledge to understand their content or their import and I urge all those who have hitherto been bored out of their skull by the subject, to take a fresh look and read this challenging and lively appraisal of weather education in the 1980s.

Philip Sauvain

Physical geography—the essential foundation

by Patrick Bailey

It was fashionable—and it seemed very proper—in the schools of the 1970s for geographers to stress the relevance of their subject to the "real world". Increasingly, however, this "real world" was understood to mean only the social, economic, mainly urban environment which formed the experience of most children in the so-called developed countries. GYSL, arguably the most successful and innovative of all geography curriculum projects, took up this exclusively human view of relevance and gave teachers the ideas and materials needed to develop it with the under-16 secondary age-groups.

Some influential school textbooks, such as the *Oxford Geography Project* series (Rolle et al, 1974) did the same. Meanwhile in the universities, most of the major developments in geography were being made in the human rather than in the physical field, leading many academic geographers to dismiss physical geography as of no importance in the future development of the subject. Today, what has happened seems to place undue emphasis upon human geography and threatens to stifle the further development of this subject, especially as a medium of general education. It is impossible to avoid including man's relationships with and dependence upon the natural world in any definition of relevance.

A decade ago, little of the geography which was taught in schools seemed to have direct relevance to the lives of pupils and their parents; it dealt mainly with topics that were interesting but distant from everyday experience. It was therefore reasonable to suppose that the subject was becoming more relevant by first improving the teaching of human geography. Moreover, when viewing the world from the vantage point of developed countries such as Britain or the USA, it seemed as though the physical basis of geography was becoming less and less important anyway. Detailed field investigations showed time and again that man's relationship with his natural environment were always indirect, even in the case of the so-called "simple"

world; it was tempting to think that, for the world's advanced economies, there were no longer any significant relations at all. The principal environment of Britain, which lives by trade, seemed to be world markets rather than any particular set of physical conditions.

Taken to extremes, or over-simplified for teaching purposes, this human emphasis came to imply an arrogantly man-centred world view. It suggested that the natural world was no longer

produced results very different from those intended. As early as the 1940s, the fiasco of the Tanganyika groundnuts scheme gave warning of what would happen to development projects if local conditions were not properly understood. Since then, development projects have produced many such fiascos and undesirable side-effects. We understand better than ever before how to conserve and develop fish stocks; yet these stocks are being depleted and some of the most useful species are threatened with extinction by over-fishing. Such a list can be extended indefinitely and suggests that man's control over the natural world is a myth.

Events and developments such as these have caused geographers to look again at their subject and to realize that human geography cannot ignore the conditions of the natural world. Geography today needs to teach that mankind is still dependent to a considerable degree upon the natural world, and that the well-being of that world in turn depends upon the wisdom or otherwise of mankind's actions. In the 1980s geographers have therefore to devise courses at every level from junior school to university, which make this message clear.

To do this, they have to see physical and human geography as parts of a whole. Man lives in a world where physical, economic, social, political and other conditions exist together and, because links between the physical and human aspects of geography are made apparent through process studies, they need also to develop such

branches of geography. For example, the interaction of "miracle" rice varieties to smallholders in parts of Asia would appear at first sight to be a mainly technical exercise in environmental improvement, taking advantage of possibilities offered by nature. In fact there is more than a suggestion that it is also part of a political and economic process designed by those in power to squeeze out smallholders and strengthen the hands of large landowners.

continued

User friendly

John Greenless on using computers in geography with slow learners

The difficulties involved in teaching basic mapwork skills to pupils with learning difficulties present a particular problem for geography teachers. Map symbols, grid references, direction and scale are all crucial basic skills and concepts that should, in theory, be mastered by all pupils but in reality are never fully grasped by slow learners. Recently-produced computer programs now provide a long-awaited solution.

Computer-assisted learning techniques are now being adopted by some geography teachers as an integral aid in teaching basic mapwork. The great advantage of the computer is that it can provide the time and patience for a slow learner that teachers, facing large mixed-ability classes, cannot always afford to give to an individual pupil. Simple "User Friendly" programs provide easy-to-follow instructions requiring the pupils to type in short responses which instantly appear on the computer's monitor. If a mistake is made then the computer will show the correct answer and, in some cases, how this answer was obtained.

A good example is "Mapping Skills", one of the Dudley Programs. This program gets the pupil to locate features using four-figure grid references. If an incorrect answer is typed in then the computer will display the correct answer and the correct way to read the co-ordinates. Once four-figure grid references have been mastered the pupil can advance to more difficult exercises involving six-figure grid references.

In addition to providing steady and patient assistance, a computer exercise also provides the slow learner with much needed confidence. My own experience of using computers with slow learners is that the pupils depart from the lesson feeling pleased at having mastered a difficult concept and at having successfully operated a machine as complicated-looking as a computer. No longer is there an alternative to providing slow learners with remedial worksheets and books.

which often embarrass the youngsters in front of their peer group. One parent told me that their son came home thrilled at having used a computer in the geography class and asked advice on a suitable machine for the family to buy.

The animation, colour and sound of computer programs all combine to produce exercises which instantly capture the pupil's imagination, gaining their interest in a particular task that has to be done. Moreover, pupils work at their own pace, not needing to worry about keeping up with the rest of the class. Imaginative computer programs also lengthen the characteristically short attention-span of pupils with learning difficulties.

"The Yacht Race" is an excellent program for use with pupils experiencing difficulty in understanding the concepts of direction and scale. The "game" requires the pupil to steer a yacht around a simple course. Directions have to be established and a correct distance set. Wrong judgement will cause the yacht to hit the bank, producing a loud crashing sound. After two or three goes at this exercise there is usually visible indication that the pupil's navigational skills have improved. The repeated need to look at the compass and scale of the map soon produces a greater awareness of the functions of these elements of a map.

The task of map-reading often looms large in the need to get pupils to read and understand contour patterns. "Hill Rallies" is a program from Schools Council Geography in which the pupil has to mastermind the construction of a railway, taking into account the slope of the land. The pupils soon learn which contour patterns indicate flat land and which contour patterns indicate gradients too steep for railway construction. The learner can then advance to "Contour Tours", another Dudley Program, which shows a wide variety of features as they appear on a contour map and, as they appear, three-dimensional

tionally and in cross-section. Hills, valleys, escarpments, etc. are soon recognized by pupils when they return to conventional maps.

Once the basic map skills have been mastered pupils can go on to use programs which combine all the skills they have gained. "The Forest", for example, simulates an orienteering competition showing how the map relates to the real world. "Car Journeys" provides a route-planning exercise and helps the pupils to understand all the variants involved in making a long-distance road journey.

It is a mistake to believe that all pupils fully understand what maps actually are. To slow learners maps are simply masses of colours, lines and names with little or no conceptual meaning. The best way to teach pupils what maps actually are is to get them to draw a map of, for example, their classroom. The ZX Spectrum has a program called "Paintbox" which allows pupils to draw their maps on to the screen of a computer. Map-drawing exercises can also be carried out by using a tracer; this allows maps to be "traced" from an atlas on to the computer-screen.

The great thing about many of these programs is that they are fun to do as well as being extremely helpful in teaching difficult mapwork skills to pupils with learning difficulties. Many programs have various skill-levels so that they can provide exercises that tax pupils of all abilities.

Computers undoubtedly have a lot to offer the geography teacher. Machines are continually becoming less-expensive to buy and several good computers are now cheap enough for a department to buy through in annual requisition. The considerable benefits of having a computer in the classroom easily outweigh the costs.

More information about the programs mentioned can be obtained from the publishers, as follows: "Mapping Skills", "Contours" and "Car Journeys" (the Dudley Programs) from Five Ways Software; "Hill Rallies" from Longman; "Micro Software"; "The Forest" from Chips Associates; "The Yacht Race" from Cambridge University Press.

John Greenless teaches at Westwood Secondary School, Glasgow.



Fact as well as fiction

Storyline Geography series. By Audrey Daily and Ian Morrison. Book 1, 0 05 003680 7. Book 2, 0 05 003681 5. £2.40 each. Book 3, 0 05 003682 3. Book 4, 0 05 003683 1. £2.50 each. Oliver and Boyd.

As the name indicates, this is a series in which the serious geographical content of each book is carried forward through the medium of the story rather than in the structure of a textbook. The vocabulary and sentence structure for Books 1 and 2 suggest a reading level of about nine years—an estimate supported by sample readability testing. Books 3 and 4 appear to be designed for a slightly higher ability range. They can certainly be used as general readers but whether they can further the cause and appeal of geography in the primary school remains to be seen.

In each book a tabulation at the back provides an analysis of each chapter under Places/Zones and under Themes and Processes (eg towns, population, natural resources, historical geography, etc.). Thus in Book 1, the story line is that of a boy who is taken to a remote island, is classified under Historical Geography, Animals and Food Supply and/or Farming, because it

describes the way in which live animals were once driven to market.

"Chinese New Year", on the other hand, features Tao and Wei Foun in China—but the language is that of Janet and John. Exactly why it should be classified as Cross-Cultural is unclear, since no other culture is featured, only that of China.

Librarians will be interested in buying these attractive little books with their eclectic subject matter and excellent colour pictures, but they will probably have a more limited appeal in the classroom. The vocabulary and sentence structure for Books 1 and 2 suggest a reading level of about nine years—an estimate supported by sample readability testing. Books 3 and 4 appear to be designed for a slightly higher ability range. They can certainly be used as general readers but whether they can further the cause and appeal of geography in the primary school remains to be seen.

Philip Sauvain

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Physical geography

continued

Once we accept an interactionist view of studies previously considered separate, it becomes possible to view physical geography as the study of the natural life support systems upon which mankind depends. These systems are the atmosphere, the oceans, the earth's mantle of soils and its "ecosphere" of plants, animals, insects and other living forms. Each system exists in a state of delicate balance with the others. Each consists of a bewildering assemblage of processes which either work to maintain the status quo or to bring about change, usually in response to changes outside the system.

Process studies emphasize that the world's natural systems are inter-dependent. Intervention in any one of them is bound to produce effects on others. When the vegetation cover of a continent, a parish or even a back garden is changed, that area's flora, fauna, climate, hydrology and the composition, quality and perhaps the amount of its soils are also affected. The building of a town will generate a winter heat-island; and its roofs and streets will cause instant rainfall run off into drains and streams, probably causing floods elsewhere in the drainage basin.

Some human interventions are deliberate, others are accidental, or at least unforeseen. It is arguable that the most significant and potentially damaging interventions are those which are unintended, because they may not even be noticed until their unfortunate results appear. For example, our use of fossil fuels may even now be changing the balance of gases in the earth's atmosphere and so raising its surface temperature. We do not know whether this is so or not, nor do we have much idea what the consequences of such a rise might be. Meanwhile we continue to burn fossil fuels because it makes good economic sense to do so, given our national and world economic systems. Other consequences are ignored.

Because processes are so vitally important in the real world, a modern course in school geography needs to be built upon studies of processes. This demands a change in approach rather than different content, so that processes are put at the front of our explanations. For example, coastal studies will begin with an attempt to analyse the processes that are likely to be at work in the zone of interaction between sea and land, given that winds produce waves and that waves erode, transport and deposit materials. Having established the effects of these processes, it is possible to predict their significance for man's uses of coasts and estuaries

and to look at examples.

Studies of earth-surface processes lead inexorably to a deeper understanding of the earth's uniqueness. It alone in the solar system, and as far as we know in the universe, is capable of supporting life. It is a logical step, therefore, to add perspective to a process-based course in school geography by including some comparative work on conditions on other planets. The abundant illustrative materials now available which show what conditions are like on the surface of the moon are especially useful because they bring out the profound consequences for mankind of the earth's having an atmosphere and water.

Physical geography is an integral part of the world we inhabit and therefore it has to form an integral part of school courses about that world. As we revise our courses, we have to avoid trying to insert "physical" units into courses which remain mainly social and economic in their content and orientation. To do this would merely perpetuate the obstinate division of the subject which we wish to remove. What we now have to do is to find ways of bringing the physical and human aspects of our subject together so that we produce courses for our pupils in geography.

Patrick Bailey is President of the Geographical Association

Process not product

Is it time to launch a new humanities initiative?
ask David Hume and John Watson

So much rhetoric has appeared recently from high places that earlier tracts are forgotten and what is said becomes lost. A *View of the Curriculum* at one point emphasized the difficulties of learning through a series of unrelated "subjects". It also underlined the need to reconsider the nature of learning by using subjects as means not ends.

Many humanities teachers are developing a new curriculum on the basis of the needs of society where subjects are only a means to an end. Other teachers, understandably afraid of losing their subject territory, expertise and status over a distinctive body of knowledge, have engaged in trench warfare. They, along with the subject associations, have dug themselves in to an area which is irrelevant to the lives of young people today. Why should we help them to understand the world they experience?

What is presented here is not an argument for abolishing subjects. The conventional academic disciplines known as humanities should come together in order to help students to a critical understanding of society and an ability to make balanced judgements. Can something be achieved therefore by organizing the humanities curriculum not around disciplines but around human issues? Content, concepts and subjects could be drawn from many subject areas. The key element would be "relevance" — not necessarily to a body of knowledge per se, but as to how issues are to be understood and handled.

Any issues-based humanities curriculum should be centrally concerned with child enquiry. This involves striking a balance between teacher-initiated questions and (often undervalued) pupil questions. However, answers are less important than the activities adopted to find solutions.

An enquiry approach would seize opportunities for encouraging pupil questions and decisions on alternatives to the implications of different answers and relating these to children's experience. Another approach, co-operative learning, working on group tasks, adopting specific contributions, making corporate decisions, evaluating each other's work can be used within a highly defined subject area and their own perceived information needs.

Both approaches alter teachers' *modus operandi*. Facilitating and guiding occupy more teacher time than prescribing, controlling and talking. There is still a place for instruction, but didacticism can too easily produce passive learning, and by now we should know that children learn more effectively and enjoyably by taking responsibility and initiative.

Active learning means activity, and for children of all ages this is best achieved when physical activity accompanies cognition. The "environment" is often held up as essential in humanities schemes, yet often we argue it can only be an occasional exercise. Organizing a scheme which identifies experience as the focal point for the development of skills, knowledge, values and concepts, and plans those experiences to concentrate on issues, is a demanding task, given the need to consider progression, differentiation, logistics, etc. It is highly desirable, because it places what the pupils actually do, not learn, or understand, at the very heart of planning. It is strategy, not structure, which must concern us, and that means process, not product.

In this, however, teachers' and pupils' interests and needs as well as contemporary events, must combine for the selection of key issues for exploration. These will depend on the school's location, the lives and experiences of students and teachers and current events. As the humanities programme unfolds there would be an emphasis on methods of collecting and questioning evidence, discussing controversial matters, developing an awareness of human, social and global problems, considering values and exploring community issues. The emphasis would be on the development of conceptual structures arising from issues explored through the learner's experience and that would vary for every student.

As prescribing what the issues are would defeat the thesis of this article, an actual example of the approach in action would illuminate the central idea.

"In Year 4 the students spend four weeks in small groups role playing family units. Teachers provide basic information about approximately 20 families. Each family unit is given a 'wild card' describing something that affects their stability. The students discuss their situation with a visitor experienced in the area of decision-making. Usually the visitors are parents, grandparents or neighbours who have encountered similar circumstances themselves. In the third week, representatives are invited from the building society, mortgage guidance, DHSS, the local clergy, etc. At least 15 guests are involved. They establish

themselves centrally and then, in role, the students take their plight to them. Finally experiences are considered and shared."

This role play is trying to use the student's personal experience to illustrate and develop wider social considerations. "Real" knowledge is thus generated through a process-oriented activity. The experience really is the very heart of learning. If this worthwhile educational approach that it must be debatable whether isolated subjects and therefore isolated specialists can really educate young people for a perplexing and changing world.

Where, then, do we go from here? It is tempting to throw up our hands in exasperation and hide behind the wall of what we know best. After all, integrated humanities schemes have come and gone with fashion. The whistling used content was the medium. The best have gone beyond that to active, enquiry-based learning. Clearer roles for subjects are sought in our primary schools, but the real challenge is meshing these into good enquiry work across the humanities and other areas of experience. Where middle schools exist, integrated and co-operative schemes are more popular. However, with the humanities struggling for recognition in the "core" curriculum, subjects may well see their routes to survival as specialisms in the years before 14, as well as becoming components of modular courses (TVEI, CPVE and the like), while maintaining some hold as academic exam subjects at GCSE, A/S and A level.

A future for the kind of humanities argued for here can best be achieved through:

1. i.e.a. in-service programmes,
2. support from HMI's — can we expect a discussion document on cross-curricular studies?
3. the recognition by the DES that children's social and environmental education should be a national priority as vital to society's future as science and technology,
4. the work of committed teachers — always the final ingredient in curriculum development.

It is on this last note that we would like to invite interested teachers to contact us. It is time to launch a new humanities initiative? Can teachers from a variety of subject specialisms work together to produce a practical, effective, enquiry-based humanities project? If you are interested, please contact the authors with some indication of your views and the context in which you are working.

David Hume is adviser for humanities, Northumbria, and John Watson is adviser for social studies, Sunderland.

Able with the less able

by Hollyfield School
Humanities Support Group

Wouldn't it be nice if you could put into practice the recommendations that others so readily put into print? Here are some guidelines for the traditionally difficult task of motivating less able pupils:

- 1 Be unpredictable — trade on the unexpected
- 2 Be amusing — but not patronizing
- 3 Be controversial — but not one-sided
- 4 Be detached — adolescents appreciate adult cynicism
- 5 Be open ended — encourage problem-solving and experiment, sudden changes of direction
- 6 Be visual — use striking, stimulating illustration
- 7 Be practical — give direct instructions and set simple straightforward tasks
- 8 Be readable — ensure that reading and language levels are suitable but never stilted
- 9 Be real — capitalize on adolescent experiences, never assume they share your specialist subject interest.

The main problem is finding school textbooks which meet these guidelines. Most books have readability levels far in excess of the reading ages of less able pupils, but maturity levels beneath them. The pages are littered with boys in short trousers and girls in stereotyped sexist roles. There is an overall tone of parental control and veiled authority. What is needed is a school pupil interest but assumes a reading age of only eight years.

The Hollyfield School, Surbiton, Surrey Humanities Support Group of geography, special skills and art teachers has tried to solve this problem. The illustrations show some examples of our lesson material. The exercise on Rosal and the sheep (see below) is specifically designed to encourage open-ended discussion. The problem is an analogue of a classic geographic issue: "How do we make the best use of diminishing resources of space and time in order to survive?" This concerns both location and our response to the environment. The problem teases even the slowest and least motivated. There is no escape from deep thinking.

As the class struggles to work out how Rosal and her sheep survive, it is good fun to introduce new evidence in the form of dropped hints. When the class discovers that Rosal smokes, has a box of matches and a bottle of wine, their questioning redoubles in intensity: "How useful are the matches?", "Does the wind change and save him?", "Does it rain and put the fire out?"

Such simulation illustrates how new data can alter circumstances and results. These exercises form part of the "Altered Images" three-year course for less able pupils. Available from Mary Glasgow Publications, Brookhampton Lane, Kington, Warwick CV35 0JB, at £1.75 per book, available in packs of 10.

It is on this last note that we would like to invite interested teachers to contact us. It is time to launch a new humanities initiative? Can teachers from a variety of subject specialisms work together to produce a practical, effective, enquiry-based humanities project? If you are interested, please contact the authors with some indication of your views and the context in which you are working.

David Hume is adviser for humanities, Northumbria, and John Watson is adviser for social studies, Sunderland.

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

Putting a stop to Shanty Towns



action 1

Shanty town of waste land on the edge of the city. Build walls and fences.

but

Very expensive. Difficult to police.



action 2

Have in riot police. Use tear gas. Truncheons and water cannons to shift squatters.

but

Violence and bloodshed. Squatters move to other vacant patches.



action 3

Shanty dwellers in new flats with better living conditions.

but

Very expensive. Can the squatters afford the rent? Should the rich have to pay?



action 4

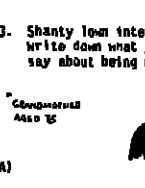
Money to help shanty dwellers to do up their houses. Let them stay over the land they have invaded.

What to do

The Town Council meets to decide what to do about its Shanty Town.

There are 4 suggestions. These actions are shown as cards above.

1. Which action card would you choose to solve the Shanty Town problem? Write down what the action card says. Draw the card and say why you chose it.
2. Draw the action card you would not use to stop Shanty Towns. Say why not.
3. Shanty town interview: Write down what you think three people might say about being moved out of the Shanty Town:

Fieldwork in Wales
Iola Smith visits the Glamorgan Heritage Coast

180 million years ago South Wales lay at the bottom of a shallow sea near the equator. Traces of that period, including fossil remains of curled shell ammonites and the rare fish lizard Ichthyosaurus can still be found in Glamorgan's limestone coastal cliffs. Fossils, however, aren't the only attraction. The area is rich in a range of other geological and geographical features and has the advantage of compressing formulations as diverse as dry valleys and storm beaches into a mere four-teen-mile stretch of coastline.

Therefore it's not surprising that over a 100 pupils a week — some from as far as south-east England — visit the Glamorgan Heritage Coast every week. And in order to cater for their needs, the four coast-owning councils have established a Resource and Information Centre at Dunraven. Wardens from this centre offer talks, courses and guided walks free of charge to school parties of all ages in addition to unlimited use of the centre's library and conference rooms. Teachers' notes, pamphlets and packs of slides and photos illustrating the coastline's features are provided and self-catering accommodation is available.

The Heritage Centre also offers a rare opportunity for physically handicapped pupils to attend a field course. Both the Centre and most of the walks and nature trails have been adapted to accommodate wheelchairs.

Guided walks for geography students include a visit to Nash Point, as the countryside here illustrates numerous geological and geographical features. For example, erosion, a wide valley created during the ice age and the changing course of a meandering river are clearly visible. Less obvious, perhaps, are the dry valley and the terraced ridges which run along the sloping hillsides. But most important of all is the cliff face with its alternating layers of shale and limestone. These cliffs are unstable, however, because both rain and the sea attack the shale and cause the limestone layers to collapse.

As such limestone rock falls are common along the Glamorgan coastline, it is an area with numerous textbook-like examples of storm beaches. Best known of these is Llys Beach. Waves have eroded the rocks

down to pebbles at the cliff feet, where they provide a useful defence against further cliff deterioration. The Heritage Coast also illustrates how geology can contribute to the development of local industry, for a neighbouring cement works depends on the cliffs for its rock raw material.

From the beach at Nash Point, pupils can see the treacherous Bristol Channel sandbanks, and to prevent ships from running aground, a light-house has been constructed. (After-noon visits can usually be arranged for interested youngsters.) Details of the channel tides are also available.

Guided beach walks usually include a visit to some of the local caves. As well as illustrating rock formations and mineral deposits, they betray the region's pirate history. For pupils interested in archaeology, the sites of Celtic cliff top hill forts are worth exploring.

Towards the Heritage Coast's western fringes lies the 600 acre Morrhay Mawr Warren — the second largest sand dune system in Europe. Plants are finding it difficult to colonize the unstable dunes, but species such as marram grass survive largely because of their ability to withstand being buried by sand.

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast offers pupils an opportunity to combine a geographical field trip with a study of the area's natural history. Rare wild plants including orchids and the flowering herbs marjoram and basil grow on the sand dunes, while wooded valley flowers such as bluebells and campons can be found along Nash Point's nature trail.

The cliffs are home to vast gull colonies — over 300 can usually be seen at one time — and the coastline is one of the few places in Britain where rare butterflies such as the Blue and migratory species like the African Painted Lady are found. Animals too inhabit the area; foxes, rabbits and lizards can occasionally be glimpsed.

Schools wishing to undertake a guided walk or visit the Resource Centre can do so by contacting a warden (tel. 0656 880157) at the Centre. Parties of up to 40 pupils are welcome, and on average three schools groups a week visit the area.



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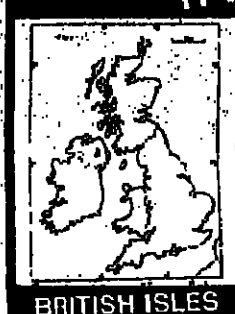
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(0278)

Progress in graphicacy

by David Boardman

Twenty years ago, on November 5 1965, a new word was introduced into the English language when *The Times Educational Supplement* published an influential article, "Graphicacy should be the fourth ac in the pack". Its authors, Professor W G V Balchin and Dr Alice Coleman, proposed the word "graphicacy" to describe the communication of spatial information that cannot be conveyed adequately by means of words or numbers alone.

They argued that education should prepare pupils to become literate, numerate, articulate and graphicate. The word graphicacy steadily gained support, particularly among geographers, in spite of the fact that some had difficulty in pronouncing it (the stress is on the first syllable, as in literacy and numeracy).

Graphicacy embraces all forms of diagrammatic representation used to communicate spatial relationships, as in the plan of a town, the pattern of relief on a map, or the picture of a landscape. The common root of such words as cartography and photography forms the stem of graphicacy, which becomes the fourth of the "acies" or

aces for short.

The concept of graphicacy gained wider acceptance after 1972 when Professor Balchin used the word as the title of his presidential address to the Geographical Association, which published it in its journal *Geography*. HMI include graphicacy in their working paper on geography in the 1979 reprint of *Curriculum 11-16* (The Red Book). A leaflet, *Geography in the School Curriculum 5-16*, widely distributed by the Geographical Association in 1981, recognizes graphicacy as one of the distinctive contributions of the subject to the curriculum.

Young children display visual-spatial ability when they draw simple pictures before they learn to read or write. Structured teaching can enhance this emerging ability through the use of pictures, photographs, diagrams and maps in the primary school. If the teacher follows the useful rule "the younger the child, the larger the scale" primary school children soon show that they are capable of drawing, understanding and using different kinds of maps. Graphicacy is thus an indispensable aim in any scheme of

geographical work or environmental education in the primary school.

A major breakthrough came in 1981 when the Inner London Education Authority published guidelines for teachers in its attractively presented curriculum paper, *The Study of Places in the Primary School*. The framework for this document is a planning matrix containing four columns and three rows. The first and second columns are headed "experience" (direct and indirect) and the third and fourth "graphicacy" (maps and other aspects). The rows indicate the concepts and skills which teachers should aim to develop in lower, middle and upper primary school children when they study places. The ILEA document, well illustrated in colour with examples of children's work, was made available nationally and has done a great deal to promote the concept of graphicacy in the primary school.

During the past 20 years an innovation with considerable potential for developing graphicacy is the use of computers to produce maps and diagrams. In the 1970s computer-generated maps were usually only available



to schools in the form of copies of printouts. Since 1980 the installation of micro-computers in schools has enabled pupils to interact with the micro and there are now over 30 programs which are designed to assist with the development of ideas and skills in mapwork.

Some programs can be used by upper primary as well as lower secondary school children. The NELCAL primary software (Nelson), for example, consists of six programs which provide children with a range of activities relating to location, direction, scale and symbols. Two of the pro-

grams encourage children to use an atlas to identify places shown on the screen.

Lower secondary school pupils can practise four-figure and six-figure grid references using a program in "Map Skills 1" (Cambridge). The program includes a test map accompanied by questions and the marks scored are displayed, thus giving the pupil instant feedback. Another program on direction asks questions about compass points and bearings when north is in different positions. Later the program shows different orientations of a compass on a map and pupils can attempt to set the compass correctly.

Some programs are in the form of games and simulations. Thus in "Map Skills 2" the players try to sail a yacht round an oval lake using compass directions and bearings. "Hike" (Longman) invites players to use bearings and distance in an orienteering exercise. Both of these are useful practical applications of map reading skills to real life tasks.

The difficulties experienced by many pupils in understanding the representation of relief on maps are well known. The "Contours" program (Heinemann) contains a library of 54 physical features represented by contour patterns. The program utilizes the animation and superimposition capabilities of the microcomputer to display on the screen relief features which can be rotated in different directions. A visual, three-dimensional impression of each relief feature is shown on the screen. The pupil might select, for example, a hill and by using eight keys obtain views of the landform as it would be seen from a helicopter flying over and around it.

Another aspect of modern technology, remote sensing, has opened up new perspectives on the world. Satellite images now complement conventional maps in some atlases and there are library editions devoted exclusively to collections of images of the world from space. Satellite pictures of Britain, Europe and the Atlantic are seen daily on television weather forecasts, mainly to show cloud cover and advancing depressions. With isobars superimposed, these satellite images provide graphic displays of weather patterns. Perhaps the perennial topic of conversation, the weather, will eventually be widened to include a reference to "today's satellite picture".

In 1983 the first candidates sat a new test in basic geography developed by the Associated Examining Board as one of a series of tests in basic skills. The aim of the AEB syllabus in geography is "to develop basic knowledge, understanding and skills in graphic forms of communication appropriate to the needs of school leavers entering employment and/or further education".

The content of the syllabus is derived from several subjects of the curriculum but is not confined to them. These candidates are expected to be familiar, for example, with advisory and warning signs and symbols used on domestic appliances and industrial equipment. They have to show an understanding of circuit diagrams and contour, isobar and isotherm patterns. The practical use of maps and street plans is emphasized, and three-dimensional transformations include the transposition from pictorial sketches to orthographic representation on squared paper.

Since the English educational system expects competence to be recognized by means of a qualification, it is perhaps fitting that the first certificates in basic geography have been awarded exactly 20 years after Balchin and Coleman wrote their original article.

David Boardman is the author of *Graphicacy and Geography Teaching* (Oxford House, 1984) and *Geography Teaching* (Oxford House, 1984).

The primary predicament

In which direction should we be travelling? asks Martin Skelton

The pressure upon the primary school curriculum is immense and increasing and I don't suppose for one moment that I am the only primary school teacher still getting over the shock of receiving the latest HMI discussion document entitled "Home Economics from 5 to 16". Mind you, if that shock was great, it was nothing to that I received when a trusted colleague told me that we were due to receive 16 such discussion documents in the not too distant future. I am still uncertain whether or not he was joking.

Still, like oncoming death, all of this concentrates the mind wonderfully and in that last half-hour before I fall asleep at night mine has once more been concentrated on exactly what we ought to be teaching at school and how we ought to be organizing it. Fuelled by discussions with friends, chapters from my library and re-readings of countless press-cuttings from old copies of the *Times Educational Supplement* I can't pretend to have quite sorted the problem out yet, but one cutting in particular caught my eye recently.

In December 1984 Bryan Waites wrote that "The vital sequence in geography teaching has been violated". How many primary schools teach geography as a developing sequence over four years?

My immediate reaction on reading that was to say "Certainly not the school in which I work" followed by a sense of guilt, for it was quite obvious from the tone of the question that we jolly well ought to be; my second reaction was to think a little about geography.

Although - as a non-geographer - I have always known that geography exists (I was, after all, examined in the subject some years ago) I set out to seek a definition of what the geography might be that we should teach as a developing sequence in primary schools. I have to tell you that I still don't know. I found various definitions, either of geography as a whole or of what are seen to be its component parts, but all of them leave me feeling dissatisfied.

There is, for example, the definition of geography as the "study of place". It is this definition which occurs most commonly and the ILEA Geography Advisory Panel use it as the title of their published guidelines document. If you haven't seen this booklet I suggest you buy a copy for it is not only a very stimulating and well-illustrated read but also provides a wealth of ideas for classroom teachers. What it doesn't do, unfortunately, is to make clear what it is in the study of place that should be specifically geographic. Two examples might make this clear, both taken from suggestions for the study of the locality.

At the age of nine, it says, children should undertake "Simple classifying

of houses according to type - Use of symbols and colours on maps and sections... Designing the ideal house". At the age of 12, children should undertake "Investigation of the evolution of the local landscape; what was there before the houses? Use of old maps and pictures".

I would not want to argue against any of these activities taking place in the classroom. Rather the reverse, but I am not sure how they are wholly geographical. Isn't the classification of houses according to type as much a mathematical activity or a scientific one, and isn't the answer to the question "What was there before?" as much historical as anything else?

What the document appears to be talking about is environmental education, two words which have buzzed so loudly in recent years that they sound like a swarm of bees. We all understand that environmental education is a good thing, but it does little to help us define exactly what geography is. Philip Neal, in *The TES*, 28th June 1985, made it clear that to him geography was only one contributing element to the study of the environment - "Head-teachers who pass on any incoming mail with an environmental flavour to the geography or biology specialist are in need of broader enlightenment".

However, in an article written in 1981 Colin Ward wrote that "Those who pursue the study of the environment as an aspect of geography... have less to fear, simply because of the strength in the pecking order of their traditionally established subjects."

You can see how, to a non-specialist, the one hand geography is something discrete which contributes to the study of the environment; on the other the environment is something to be used as an aspect of geography.

"Graphicacy" seems much easier. A straw poll amongst a few colleagues showed me that there was genuine agreement that graphicacy was geographic and that was concerned with maps. It seems straightforward, even given the fact that graphicacy has also been described as the "communication of relationships that cannot be successfully communicated by words or mathematical notation alone". This seems somewhat broad, including, as it must, not only maps, road signs and wiring diagrams but also the relationship between, say, a logo and what it represents.

The problem lies in developing all of this sequentially in the classroom. At a previous school, we tried to work out a sequence for the development of graphicacy using the Schools Council Geography Committee's "Understanding Maps" as a reference point. We ended up with a list of 67 sequential objectives covering direction, height, location, plan, scale and symbols. Our difficulty was fitting this

sequence into an integrated curriculum so that a natural progression occurred in contexts that were relevant to children.

In addition to environmental awareness and graphicacy, the Geographical Association has suggested that a third area to which geography can make a contribution is "world awareness". Here again I think we run into difficulties, not because there is anything wrong with the notion of world awareness but, first, because it is still not made clear exactly what geography's part is to be and second because the debate still rages about the extent to which most children of primary age are capable of taking on board a world perspective. As the ILEA document points out, most of them still have difficulty coming to terms with the fact that they can live in, say, Preston, Lancashire and England at the same time.

Interestingly enough, the ILEA document also argues that the young child's curiosity about the wider world is fuelled by human detail - families, clothes, houses, meals, festivities, etc. - and yet they too cannot be regarded as specifically geographic, surely? Having thought about this I now feel less guilty that my school is not yet teaching geography as a developing sequence over four years and I certainly don't feel that the fault is entirely mine or my colleagues'. If geographers are concerned about the place of their subject in the school curriculum then the responsibility is theirs to provide those of us who are non-geographers with a clear indication of the direction

At present I think they are neglecting that responsibility. For as long as they fail to provide us with a clear definition of what their subject is and what activities will properly represent it in the classroom we haven't a hope of developing sequences of geographical learning of any kind. The problem for them is that if they allow the present conditions to continue they may fail to recognize geography's traditional subject boundary for much longer.

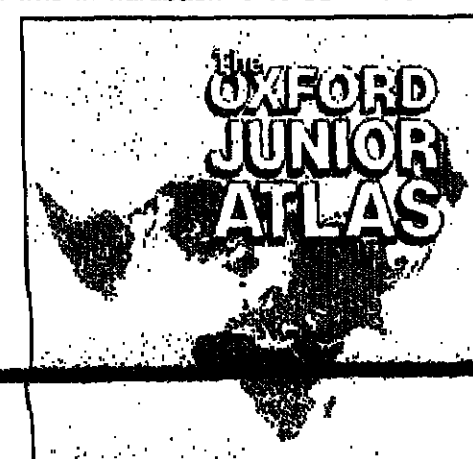
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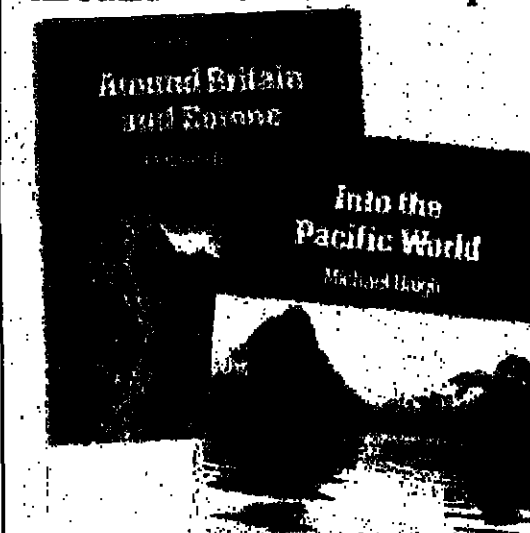
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form (enclose SAE).
(02475) 160022

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
BROMLEY**
BROOKFIELD CENTRE
Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent
BR9 6EL
Required for January
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Teacher for emotionally dis-
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are referred with a wide range
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(02475) 160022

SOUTH GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL THE COURT SCHOOL, CARDIFF TEACHER Scale I + SSA

Required for January 1986, to teach children with moderate
learning difficulties in this Special School for pupils in the
age range 5 to 10+. Temporary for two terms.

Application forms may be obtained on receipt of a stamped
addressed foolscap envelope from The Director of Educa-
tion, Education Offices, Kingsway, Cardiff CF1 4JG, to
whom applications should be returned within 10 days of the
appearance of the advertisement.

Applications are welcomed from suitably qualified people
regardless of their sex, marital status, race, religion, colour
or disability.

Application forms and job description from Staffing
Officer (SS/H) on 01-546 2121 ext. 3466 (answerphone
service) quoting reference 4705.

Closing Date: 27th December 1985.
This post is subject to the LMGC recruitment procedure
and with their agreement is now being offered on a
unrestricted basis. Applications are invited from anyone
with appropriate qualifications or experience but priority
will be given to employees of the GLC or MCC's.

APPOINTMENTS IN SCOTLAND

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT ADVISER

Replacement appointment required to
develop and co-ordinate the Church's
young adult work throughout Scotland
based on Edinburgh.

Applications and recommendations by
31st January 1986 to the General
Secretary, Department of Education,
121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN
from whom further information and
particulars are available.

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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
continued

SURREY

PARSONS MEAD SCHOOL

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

Applications are invited for the above post for the 1st September 1986. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to teach and also to play leading roles in all aspects of school life. The school is a large, well-established school with a high academic standard. The salary will be in accordance with the Government Superannuation Scheme. Further details and application forms are available from the Headmaster, Parsons Mead School, 100, St. John's Road, Surrey KT9 1PE.

Closing date for applications: January 3rd, 1986 (13.9.86)

By Subject Classification

Art and Design

Other Assistants

ESSEX

NEW HALL SCHOOL

TEACHER OF HISTORY OF ART

The successful candidate would be required to teach the subject to A-Level (AS&A) and Advanced Certificate (AS&A) Sixth Form pupils in a department with a strong tradition of excellence. The salary will be in accordance with the Government Superannuation Scheme. Further details and application forms are available from the Headmaster, New Hall School, 100, St. John's Road, Essex SS1 1PE.

Other Assistants

LONDON

COMPUTER STUDIES

TEACHER OF COMPUTER STUDIES

Required for January 1986. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to teach and also to play leading roles in all aspects of school life. The school is a large, well-established school with a high academic standard. The salary will be in accordance with the Government Superannuation Scheme. Further details and application forms are available from the Headmaster, Parsons Mead School, 100, St. John's Road, Surrey KT9 1PE.

Other Assistants

NORWICH

(An Associated School of the Woodard Corporation)

The Governors of this Independent Boys' School

invite applications for the post of

HEAD

from 1st September, 1986, following the retirement of Mr. J. P. K. Asquith, M.A.

Applicants should be graduates and communicant members of the Church of England.

Further details may be obtained from: The Headmaster's Secretary, Cavston College, Cavston, Norwich, NR10 4JD.

Written applications, accompanied by full curriculum vitae and the names of three referees should be addressed to the Chairman of Governors: M. Ainsworth Esq., 4, St. Edmund Close, Calster St. Edmund, Norwich, NR14 8RJ.

Closing date for applications: 1st January, 1986. (16.1.86)

BEMBRIDGE SCHOOL, ISLE OF WIGHT

HEAD

Applications are invited for the Headship of Bembridge School which becomes vacant on the 1st September 1986 on the retirement of the present Headmaster, Mr. R. L. Whitty. Founded in 1918, Bembridge is a well established Non denominational Independent School for 180 boys and 43 girls, age range 7-18, which includes some day pupils.

The Governing Body of the School is in membership with the G.B.A. and the present Headmaster is a full member of SHMIS. A good academic standard is maintained and pupils are prepared for the Oxford College Entrance Examination, GCE Advanced and Ordinary levels, while preparations are well under way to meet the requirements of the new GCSE. Traditional games are played and there is a wide choice of extra-curricular activities available. Art, Music and Drama play an important part in the life of the school, which is well equipped with laboratories and computer centre.

Starting salary will not be less than £15,782 and the Head will reside in a House free of rent, rates, etc. as well as receiving various other allowances. The Head must be a graduate of a British University.

Applications together with a Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be addressed to the Clerk of the Governing Body, Bembridge School, Isle of Wight, PO35 5BH. Closing date for applications is Monday 20th January 1986. (16.1.86)

Classics

Other Assistants

BRIGHTON

BRIGHTON & HOVE HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER OF CLASSICS

Required for April or September 1986. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to teach and also to play leading roles in all aspects of school life. The school is a large, well-established school with a high academic standard. The salary will be in accordance with the Government Superannuation Scheme. Further details and application forms are available from the Headmaster, Parsons Mead School, 100, St. John's Road, Surrey KT9 1PE.

Other Assistants

Computer Studies

TEACHER OF COMPUTER STUDIES

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Other Assistants

CARDIFF

TEACHER OF COMPUTER STUDIES

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Further Education

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

**BELL COLLEGE,
Hamilton.**

Group 6. Present Salary £20,490.
This post will become vacant in June, 1986.

**CARDONAL COLLEGE,
Glasgow.**

Group 6. Present Salary £18,462.
This post will become vacant in August, 1986.

**LANGSIDE COLLEGE,
Glasgow.**

Group 7. Present Salary £19,398.
This post is currently vacant.

Applicants should state clearly the post(s) for which they are applying. Forms of application and particulars of the post(s) may be obtained from the Director of Education, Further Education Department, Strathclyde House, 20 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PF. (Telephone 041 227 3414/2763) to whom completed applications should be returned not later than 27th December, 1985.

EDWARD MILLER
Director of Education

(18112)

PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

continued

Music

Other Assistants

WORCESTER

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Worcester.
H.M.C. 11-18. Separate
Preparatory Department
Music specialist required for
April or September to be
involved also in teaching general
subjects and games within the
Preparatory Department (boys
8-11).
Applications by letter with
curriculum vitae and two re-
ferences, to the Headmaster, Royal
Grammar School, Worcester.
(98515) 205824

Physical Education

Other Assistants

MIDDLESEX

BUCKINGHAM COLLEGE
LOWER SCHOOL
The Ridgeway, Kenton.
Midd. HA2 0LJ.
100 day boys - 12+.
Educational teacher of Boys
Games & P.E. required from
January 1986.
Apply to the Headmaster
with C.V. and references. A
subsidy of £2,000 p.a. for
subsidiary stipends. Accom-
modation available. (95415) 204924

Science

Other Assistants

LONDON SW18

ST. PAUL'S PREPARATORY
SCHOOL
Collet Court, Langdale Road,
London SW18 2PT.
Wanted for April or September
1986, a teacher of Science up
to C/Scholarship level.
Ability to assist with general
education, but not essential.
Superb laboratory, salary
above national average.
Applications, with full C.V.,
to the Headmaster. (95405) 204824

Other than by Subject

Classification

Other Assistants

BERKSHIRE

ELSTREE SCHOOL
Woodhewer, Nr. Reading
(H.A.P.S. 165 boys)

An experienced, resident
JUNIOR EDUCATION teacher
is required in September
1986 to take a small form of
subject (not Latin) and to
enter fully into the extra-
curricular activities of this well
established rural school.
Salary up to £15,000 p.a.
plus pension. Some accommo-
dation available.
Further details from the
Headmaster (SAB, please).
(95844) 205824

KINGSGATE Teacher re-
quired in January, for in-
dependent school in the Hill
Top, near Buxton. Salary
£25,000 p.a. plus house.
Apply to Mr. J. H. Smith,
150th Lane, Buxton, Derby
(10563) 205824

LONDON W1

For January 1986. Full-time
Class Teacher - 9 year olds
Ability to offer drama an
advantage.
Apply to The Headmaster,
Preparatory School, 66 New Road Street,
London W1V 3DP. Tel: 01-
932 3245. (95412) 205824

Colleges of Further Education

Directors, Principals
and Vice Principals

WEST GLAMORGAN

See displayed advertisement
under Tertiary Education
(95092) 200116

Heads of Department

CHESHIRE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MALTON COLLEGE OF
FURTHER EDUCATION

HEAD OF ENGINEERING &
STUDIES - GRADE V

The post will be vacant from
1st May 1986 in order to facilitate a
smooth transfer, as the
existing Department of
Engineering Technology
Building Studies
are merged to form a single
Department with effect
from 1st September 1986.

The person sought will
be a committed profes-
sional with appropriate
qualifications and a range
of relevant experience,
which includes manage-
ment of resources. The
job offers an excellent oppor-
tunity for further self-
development and pro-
gression for the next step in
career development.

Applications form and
further particulars from:
Principal's Secretary,
Malton College of F.E.,
Rugby Road, Walsby,
Cheshire WA9 7QQ. (SAB
please).

Closing date - first post
6th January 1986.
Interviews will be held
around mid-January 1986.
(95445) 200116

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON COLLEGE OF
FURTHER EDUCATION

TWO HEAD OF
DEPARTMENT (GRADE
IV)

Applications are invited
for two posts in the
well established college
of further education in West
London. The posts are in the
Department of Environ-
mental Studies and the
Department of Health and
Social Studies. Both posts
are available from 1st Septem-
ber 1986.
Salary £15,540 p.a.
plus £1,410 p.a. for London
Weighting £16,950 p.a.
plus annum.

Further details and ap-
plication forms from:
The Principal, Kingston
College of Further Educa-
tion, Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey KT1 1AQ.
To be returned by 13th
December 1985. 200116

TOTTENHAM COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

High Road, London N15 4RU
Telephone: 01 802 3111
Principal: J. R. Perry Williams, MSc, PhD, CEng, FRES, FRIB.

Head of Department of Engineering (Grade V)

Applications are invited for the above post which will be
vacant at the end of the Spring Term 1986 on the
appointment of the present holder to a Vice-
Principalship of another College.

Salary: (under review) £17,940 - £19,808 inclusive of
London Weighting. 100% of approved re-
moval expenses may be paid to the successful
candidate.

Further particulars and forms of application
(stamped, addressed envelope please) from the
Vice Principal to whom forms should be returned by
Monday, 6th January 1986.

Haringey

Haringey is an equal opportunity employer. We
welcome your application which will be
considered on merit, irrespective of race, marital
status, sex or any disability you may have.

DEVON

Please see displayed adver-
tisement on page 45. 220018
(95383)

WEST GLAMORGAN

See displayed advertisement
under Tertiary Education
on page 49.

Other Appointments

BRENT

LONDON BOROUGH OF

KILBURN POLYTECHNIC

Primary Park Road, London

NW6 1YR

IDENT INDUSTRIAL

REQUIREMENT: LECTURER (Post 9533)

Required to join an expanding

team which offers training and

advice to promote positive re-

sponses in the multi-racial

workplace and in organisations

which provide a service to the

community. The post holder

works through employees, au-

thorities and community groups to

eliminate discrimination and to

further equality of opportunity.

The work is highly varied.

All applicants who feel they

have interest or experience in

any of the following or related

areas should apply:

- race relations and equal

opportunities

- community groups and volun-

tary organisations

- industry or business at any

level

- industrial relations

- trade unions

- personal training

- subject to confirmation, plus

London Allowance £1,036.

There is an excellent oppor-

tunity for further self-

development and pro-

gression for the next step in

career development.

All applicants who feel they

have a contribution to make to

the work of the unit should re-

turn their applications to the

Principal's Secretary, who will

be able to provide further in-

formation and details of the

post. Applications should be

sent to the Principal's Secre-

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Blackpool and Fylde College of Further and Higher Education

FACULTY OF BUSINESS, FOOD AND MANAGEMENT Re-Advertisement

PRINCIPAL LECTURER - COOKERY (Ref. BFM/4/2)

This is a Senior Faculty post and the person appointed will be responsible for the co-ordination of all Cookery activities within the Faculty, with particular emphasis on Craft skills and the application of traditional skills to new and changing industrial needs.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LECTURER II - BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (Ref. STD/2/11)

To assist in the development and teaching of Biological Sciences within the Faculty and to act as the Head of Section in co-ordinating and administering the work of the Life Sciences Section.

LECTURER II - BIOCHEMISTRY (Ref. STD/2/11)

This is a temporary one-year appointment commencing 1st February 1986. To assist in the development and teaching of Life and Physical Sciences within the Faculty. For further particulars and application form apply (stating post) to the Principal, Blackpool & Fylde College of Further and Higher Education, Ashfield Road, Bingham, Blackpool, FY2 0HS. Closing date: 20th December 1985.

The Lancashire County Council
is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

(1810)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Northumberland County Council

CASTINGTON MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND

Lecturer I

Closing date: 20th December 1985

Applications invited from qualified and experienced teachers for the full-time post of Lecturer I at H.M. Youth Custody Centre, Castington, which is a closed penal establishment catering for young male offenders aged 17-21 years.

Post will combine a teaching commitment with certain delegated organisational and administrative tasks, under the direction of the Education Officer. Successful candidate will be part of a teaching team and will assist in developing a broad education programme for young prisoners within an expanding department. Teaching involvement will be mainly in the areas of microcomputer studies and examination work although there will be opportunity for involvement in a variety of other areas including individual programme, group work, communication and aspects of personal development.

Previous experience within these additional areas and in teaching young adults would be an advantage. Non-teaching duties will be in connection with the day-to-day running of the Department and will provide an opportunity to gain administrative experience.

Application forms and further details obtainable by forwarding a foolscap a.s.e. to the Director of Education, Education Dept., County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EP to be returned to the Director of Education by 31 December 1985.

(1322)

East Sussex County Council

HASTINGS COLLEGE OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Deputy Head of Department ART & DESIGN

We are looking for a vigorous, progressive person with experience in industry and education in the area of Art & Design, capable of leading and initiating in new course development and to assist in the development of existing courses.

Required from Summer Term 1986, i.e. 21st April. Salary Band 10, £10,900 p.a.

Further details and application form from the Staffing Officer, Hastings College of Arts & Technology, Archway Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 0HX. Tel: Hastings (0424) 22647. Closing date for receipt of forms: 1st post 24th January 1986.

(1498)

COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

continued

SHERBORNE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Equal Opportunities
Employer

OSWESTRY COLLEGE

College Road, Oswestry

Required as soon as possible. Lecturer in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Candidates should be qualified at and/or degree level, have industrial and/or teaching experience, and be prepared to teach up to BTEC Level III and GCE.

Further details and application forms available from the Principal, Oswestry College, College Road, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2SA.

Tel: 0691 633067. Closing date: 11th January 1986.

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VAUXHALL COLLEGE BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Stationery Street,
Kennington, London
SE11 4PT

Required from January 1986. Part-time lecturers to teach Computer Numerical Methods and Mathematics and Communication across Business Education Courses.

Contact: Jane Benson on 01-587 0670. (03714) 220026

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Strathclyde Department of Education Further Education

Applications are invited for the undermentioned post. All candidates should have relevant industrial or commercial experience where appropriate. Teacher training would be an advantage but training can be given on an in-service basis.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT 6.12.85

continued

WEST SUSSEX COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

West Sussex College of Further Education, Chichester

Required as soon as possible. Lecturer in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Contact: Jane Benson on 01-587 0670. (03714) 220026

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Area Youth & Community Worker

— Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent
J.N.C. Range 3 Points 1-5
£7,866-£8,844 per annum

The successful applicant will be responsible for outreach work in the Cheadle area as well as being responsible, in conjunction with the Adult Advisory Committee for the Centre, for the organisation, programme and day-to-day administration of Cheadle Youth & Community Centre and Cheadle Activities Centre.

Application forms and further particulars available from: Chief Education Officer, Staffing Non Teaching Section, Education Offices, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH. (Enclose SAE for reply)

Closing date: 20.12.85

Trade Union membership is desirable.

Staffordshire

County Council

County of Cleveland

CLEVELAND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Temporary Full-time Posts -

Young Unemployed Project

The purpose of this new project is to develop and promote opportunities for unemployed people in the age range 15-21.

1986 in the first instance, with a possible extension until 31st March, 1987.

Salary and conditions of service are in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth Workers and Community Centre Wardens. Salary within the range £7,866 - £9,851.

Assistance with removal and relocation expenses will be provided in approved cases. Temporary housing accommodation may also be available within the County area. Application forms and further details can be obtained from the County Education Officer, Education Offices, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BN, to whom completed forms should be returned by Monday, 30th December, 1985.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

(19767)

YOUTH & COMMUNITY
continued
LONDON
Inner London Education Authority
SAMUEL LITHGOW BOYS CLUB
SENIOR YOUTH WORKER
Applications are invited for the post of Senior Youth Worker or based at Samuel Lithgow Boys Club. Applicants must have experience in youth work and have a knowledge of and preferably experience in similar work to this unit. In particular it is desirable to appoint someone who is experienced and has the initiative and imagination to organise and develop programmes in this well established youth club.
Salary and conditions in accordance with the London Education Authority scale 31, £9,633 - £10,885. Trainee (Unqualified) £6,525 - £7,994. Both scales include London Allowance, should an unqualified worker be appointed an allowance of £750 will be payable per annum subject to one month's satisfactory service in post.
The appointment is to the service of the Authority with secondment to the Club. Assistance may be given towards household removal expenses.
Details and forms returnable by 20th December 1985 from Camden Area Youth Office, 6 Camden High Street, NW1 7AL, 388 9011.
This post is considered suitable for job share. Applications will only be considered if submitted on a permanent basis. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER. (93340) 440000

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAs OF WALES
SENIOR ASSISTANT to the National Secretary
Salary scale circa £10,782. Energetic committed Christian is required to maintain the devotion of the YMCAs in Wales. The post will be based in Cardiff but will require extensive travel. A car is approved for this purpose. Experience in Youth and Community Work essential. Further details and application form can be obtained by writing to: National Secretary of YMCAs of Wales (Inc), Lord Aberdare House, 27 Church Road, Whitcomb, Cardiff CF4 5DX. (93363) 440000

SOMERSET
TAUNTON Y.M.C.A.
GENERAL SECRETARY
Applications are invited for the above post at a salary within J.N.C. Range 3 (£7,866 - £9,851), dependent on qualifications and experience.

The Association is housed on a new building, opened in 1975, and offers many facilities for its members and the community. A new hard-core area, which will be used for sports and other activities, is being developed. The Association is a dynamic and growing organisation. The General Secretary is assisted by part-time paid staff and a large number of volunteers.

A recognised qualification is essential. The post is full-time and is based in Taunton. An excellent relationship with the local authority is essential. The appointment will be subject to a satisfactory medical report of the County Medical Officer.

Applications by 31st December 1985 to the Chairman, Taunton Y.M.C.A., Lisleux Way, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4LS, from whom application forms and further particulars of the post may be obtained.

Persons interested in visiting the Association for information or to see the premises are asked to ring the Y.M.C.A. office (0845 74607) to make an appointment. (93347) 440000

Overseas Appointments

BARCELONA
Graduates with TEFL qualifications and experience required January 1986. Excellent conditions. Applications are welcomed for September 1986 and photo to The British Centre, Apartado 337, Sant Gual del Valles, Barcelona, (935657).

CHRISTIAN TEACHERS FOR AFRICA
To teach Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture, T.S.E., Arts and Commercial Subjects in Secondary Schools. Secondary teacher of the African and Caribbean. Fresh start, also needed.
Voluntary terms - two year contracts - air fares, personal insurance, maintenance and overseas allowance provided. Apply to: Volunteer Missionary Movement, Shirley Lane, London, E.C.4. Tel: 0703 24853. (17282) 440000

INDONESIA
Several qualified and experienced TEFL instructors with established 1986 contracts. Experience in teaching English in the field. Salary £12,000.00 per annum. Apply to: The British Council, 100, The Quadrant, London W1 1AA. (17377) 440000

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS

TAX-FREE OPPORTUNITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

British Aerospace has continuing requirements for qualified male English Language Teachers to join our staff in Saudi Arabia and teach English to students and cadets beginning their training in the Royal Saudi Air Force.

These are excellent opportunities for experienced teachers to earn high salaries which will be tax-free, subject to completing a minimum of one year's service in Saudi Arabia. Those appointed will be working in well equipped educational facilities as part of our large British expatriate staff.

Applicants must be UK citizens under the age of 50 whose mother tongue is English. The minimum qualifications for these posts are either a degree with Language or Linguistics as a subject or a Teacher Training Certificate (one year post-graduate or 3 years non-graduate) in any subject. If you do not have a language, then a TEFL qualification is a further requirement. We are also looking for at least 3 years' experience of TEFL.

In addition to the high tax-free salary, successful candidates will receive free accommodation, messing, medical care, life assurance and other benefits, including travel-paid UK leave.

Please apply in writing, giving brief details of experience, quoting reference 060/TES, to: The Personnel Officer, Saudi Arabia Support Dept., FREEPOST, British Aerospace PLC, Warley Division, Warley Aerodrome, Preston, Lancs PR4 1LA or telephone Preston 634317.

BRITISH AEROSPACE

...up where we belong

Computer Specialist Jordan

The Ministry of Education is adopting a pilot project for introducing the essentials of computer science into secondary schools. The requirement is for a specialist in computer education and computer based instructional courses.

Duties will revolve around the development of a curriculum project in computer literacy and coursework units in other subjects for the secondary grades, especially English language, mathematics and science. Other tasks will include the preparation of technical handouts on computers for use in short courses and participation in such courses as well as the training of subject supervisors who will be the nucleus of tutorial courses in production of courseware and also in computer education. Knowledge of Arabic would also be useful but is not essential as training will be given.

This appointment is on contract or secondment to the ODA, on loan to the Government of Jordan, for a period of one year. Salary (UK Israble) will be in accordance with qualifications and experience and will include an element in lieu of superannuation. A variable tax free Foreign Service Allowance, currently in the range £2,738 to £8,096 pa, is also payable.

The post is wholly financed by the British Government under British programme of Aid to the developing countries. In addition to basic salary and overseas allowances, other benefits normally include paid leave, free family passages, children's education allowances, free accommodation and medical attention.

For full details and application form, please apply before 21 December 1985, quoting ref. AH502/ER/TEFL, stating post concerned, and giving details of age, qualifications and experience to: Appointments Officer, Overseas Development Administration, Room 301, Abercrombie House, Eastham Road, EAST WILKINSON, Glasgow G78 6BA.

ODA OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
Britain helping nations to help themselves

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, NASSAU, BAHAMAS

A vacancy will exist effective 1st January, 1986 for a teacher qualified to teach Needlework/Domestic Science to high school students. The teacher must be qualified to teach both G.C.E. O-level students and those working towards a qualification modelled on the C.S.E. syllabus. The Methodist Church in the Bahamas, through the Principal of Queen's College, invites applications from teachers qualified in this field.

Queen's College consists of three sections; an Early Learning Centre, a Primary and a Secondary Division. The total student population is approximately 1,400. The school has operated as a top school in the Bahamas since 1890. Staff are expected to work in harmony with the goals of the Methodist Church.

Interested persons should Air Mail an application to Rev. C. A. Sweeting, Principal, Queen's College, P.O. Box N-7127, Nassau, Bahamas. Recent experience has been that "Swifair" and other services arrive in the Bahamas no sooner than the direct Air Mail services. All applications must be supported by a curriculum vitae. A telephone number at which persons may be contacted should be included. (19141)

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We offer:

- Vacancies for qualified teachers of secretarial subjects.
- Competitive tax free salaries, according to qualifications and experience, with free accommodation and annual paid passage home.
- Interviews in London February/March for posts from August/September. Employment contracts with local Middle Eastern colleges, and close professional support/quality control from Pitman.
- Opportunities for both men and women.

For further details, (previous applicants need not apply) please send your curriculum vitae to: Mrs. Rosemary Lloyd, Director, Branch Colleges, Pitman Education & Training Ltd., 154, Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AX. (91115)

Pitman

OVERSEAS POSTS

COLOMBIA
THE BRITISH AMERICAN
Barranquilla, Colombia
(Bilingual - 400 pupils on roll)
Required for January 1986 - Secondary Grade Primary Teacher (7 - 8 years) to teach Spanish, Maths and English. Familiarity with English is desirable.
Suitably qualified teachers should apply in writing with curriculum vitae, including recent photograph and telephone number to: British Council, 150, The Quadrant, London W1 1AA. Interviews in London by the Headmaster 1/10 January 1986. (93425) 460000

ITALY
Wanted for January, 1986. Graduate preferably with some teaching experience, for English Language School in Chieti, Italy. Driving licence essential.
Contact: Deside (0944) 81753. (93415) 460000

KUWAIT

ESL/ESF TEACHERS
Graduates with TEFL qualification. Middle East experience an asset. Two year contracts. Attractive salary and benefits including air fares. Conditioned accommodation. Telephone number to: Mr. P. C. Curtis, 150, The Quadrant, London W1 1AA. Interviews in London by the Headmaster 1/10 January 1986. (93425) 460000

LIBSON
ESL Teachers needed commencing January 1986. Minimum qualification RSA Prelim. For full details please write to: Mr. P. C. Curtis, 150, The Quadrant, London W1 1AA. (93417) 460000

PAKISTAN
EDWARDS COLLEGE SCHOOL
In the North West Frontier of Pakistan, near Rawalpindi, to teach boys to O level in History/Geography/English, Maths, Science from Spring or Autumn. Interest in Sport etc. an advantage. Application preferred. Local Salary, air fares and telephone allowance offered.
North Area, Islamabad, Pakistan. (93578) 460000

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Teachers of English-Tertiary Level. Duties: To teach English to students in Literature in Teacher Training Colleges and Foreign Language Institutes.
Qualifications: Qualified teachers of English with experience at secondary or tertiary level.
Applications from married couples considered.
Salary: 300 - 500 Rmb. (approx. £20 - £33 pa) plus non-conversion to salaries.
Benefits: Free accommodation and medical treatment. One way air fare will be paid.
Contract: One year local contract from August 1986. Extension to 1987. Applications close December 30th, 1985.
Further details and application forms from: International Educational Programmes, Central Bureau, Seymour House, 10, Bedford Square, London W1P 0DT. (93203) 460000

KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY JEDDAH — SAUDI ARABIA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE

The ELC provides courses in scientific and technical English for approximately 1,100 male and 500 female students drawn from six colleges at King Abdulaziz University.

Courses range from intensive programmes of 20 hours per week for foundation students to specialised reading skills courses of five hours per week. The Center has an academic staff of 80 well-qualified teachers recruited mainly from the U.K. and U.S.A. and is supported by fully equipped in-house media services - a graphics studio, a reprographics and printing shop, TV studio, photographic studio and two language laboratories. A 20-position Apple computer laboratory has recently been established and now offers a variety of programmes in computer-assisted language learning.

The ELC is currently recruiting well-qualified teachers with relevant experience for June 1986. Teaching couples are especially encouraged to apply.

QUALIFICATIONS: M. A. in TEFL/ESL or Applied Linguistics.
EXPERIENCE: Minimum two years' experience teaching TEFL/ESL overseas.
STARTING SALARY: Attractive salaries depending on qualifications and experience.

BENEFITS:
1. Generous housing and furniture allowances;
2. End of contract gratuity;
3. Sixty days paid summer leave each year;
4. Baggage allowance;
5. Educational allowance for school-age children;
6. Transportation allowance;
7. Annual round-trip air fares.

CONTRACT: One-year, renewable.
APPLICATIONS: Write, including full curriculum vitae, current telephone contact and photocopies of qualifications and letters of experience to:



SUPERVISOR GENERAL
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE
KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY
P.O. BOX 1540,
JEDDAH-21441
SAUDI ARABIA.

Malawi

Kamuzu Academy

Headmaster Mr. M. B. Gledhill

M.A.

This co-educational boarding school was founded in 1977 by His Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda. It is modelled on the lines of a U.K. public school and is a member of the Headmasters' Conference. There are at present 380 pupils taking courses up to Cambridge Board 'A' level. The 38 teaching staff are all expatriates and are expected to play a full part in the wide range of extra curricular activities.

There will be a number of vacancies for September 1986 and 1987 in both Arts and Sciences.

CANDIDATES
Male or female, single or married, should have an Honours Degree in their teaching subject and three years' teaching experience. They should also have studied Latin at school.

SALARY
Ori school's scale plus 25% tax free gratuity.

CONTRACTS
3 years initially with paid travel, free housing, car loan, generous education allowance and medical cover. Interviews in London March 1986.

For further information and an application form please contact: Miss D. Heard, Gabbitts-Thring Services, 6-8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London, W1X 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161

Gabbitts-Thring

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Youth and Community Worker

SALARY: Scale 6.
£9,836 - £10,248 per annum inclusive

A QUALIFIED YOUTH WORKER is required for this new and challenging post to initiate work with unattached young people in the 11-21 years age range. In addition you will also be expected to meet/contact young people in a variety of situations and settings.

Applications from employees of the GLC and MCC's with relevant experience will be welcome.

Closing date 19th December, 1985.
Application forms and further details available from the Director of Educational Services, Town Hall, Finsbury Square, London N1 1JL. Telephone 268 1235. Ext. 221.
Please quote ref ADW/8/204. (19131)

AN AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

Primary School Teachers

Overseas

On behalf of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies operating in the State of Brunei, Gabon, Nigeria, Oman and Sarawak, Shell International Petroleum Company Limited invites applications for a limited number of vacancies expected in their schools in September 1986.

You should be prepared to serve in any of the above countries and must be British, single and under 32 with a recognised U.K. qualification for teaching the primary range (5-11 years) and have a minimum of three years' recent and relevant teaching experience in the United Kingdom. The ability to play the piano and to teach French would be an advantage and you should also possess a clean U.K. driving licence. Employment is conditional on obtaining a work permit from the country in question.



for which the Company concerned will make application.
Engagement will be a one-year contract initially, renewable by mutual consent for up to four years. Applicants who could obtain secondment from their L.E.A. for the period of the engagement will also be considered. Conditions of service include paid return passages and approximately 40 days home leave each year.
Please write or telephone for an application form to: Shell International Petroleum Company Limited, Recruitment Division, (T13) PNEL/421, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone: 01-934 2865
Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st January, 1986.

Shell

OVERSEAS POSTS

continued

SPAIN
KENSINGTON SCHOOL
Madrid
Requires for January 1986 a teacher with experience in Infant/Junior Teacher - senior subjects + music. Interviews on 12th January 1986 at 10.00. Applications to send full C.V. plus photograph to Head, Kensington School, Calle de Buzana No. 2, Madrid, Spain. Interviews to be held in English. December 460000

SUMMER JOBS ABROAD for children 10-14 years. Experienced people over 20 needed to create a holiday for children on camping holidays in Europe. Mid-June to Mid-September. Write giving full details to: Children's Travel Ltd, Edmundson House, Talbot Street, London, Cheshire WA16 6BD. (05468) 460000

SUMMER TEACHING JOBS in America. Work on American children's camps, mid-June to end August. See advertisement '94235' 460000

SWITZERLAND
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL IN LAUSANNE
Requires qualified English teacher for January. Teaching up to Cambridge Proficiency level. Good knowledge of French essential. For a young, dynamic hard-working man/woman with some experience in teaching. Interviews London Dec. Apply to: Mrs. J. J. Morris, 11, CH-1003, Lausanne, Switzerland. With full particulars and photo. 460000 (05560)

TANZANIA
Tanzania, Arusha
50 miles from Mount Kilimanjaro. St. Constantine's School. Multi-Bilingual, requires as from January 1986:
1. Director of Studies from Primary School curriculum and programmes. 180 students, class 7, age 8-13.
2. Primary School teachers. Preferred couples. Experience in sport, music, art, science, foreign languages and French. Apply, sending photograph and C.V. to: St. Constantine's School, P.O. Box 3586, Arusha (02666) 460000

TANZANIA

International School of Mombasa requires Teacher of Mathematics to 18 standard (similar to 'A' level). Ideally able to teach some Physics. Interviews on 12th January 1986. The appointing teacher will be able to commence in February/March 1986. Please write for details and application form to: Box 18M, European Council of International Schools, 18 Levant Street, Pettsfield, Sussex, GU33 5EW. (03316) 460000

TEACH ON EXCHANGE

USA

Qualified British teachers of English, history, mathematics and primary subjects with 3 years experience currently teaching full-time in the UK. Post-paid to apply for post-paid exchange appointments to the USA during the 1986/87 academic year.

Teachers are seconded on full UK salary with travel expenses and a cost living allowance (approx. \$1200.00). The closing date for applications in these subjects has been extended to 31st January 1986. Write to: The Central Bureau, 27, Gower Street, London, W1C 6PJ. Tel: 01-466 5101. (02866) 460000

TURKEY
Fethiye, Isparta, School. Requires qualified English teachers with TEFL qualifications. 2 year contracts, housing supplied. Interviews in England. Applications Write Box No. 15, 00466 Priory House, St. Leonards, East. 460000 (05368)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Should I Go?
A full of essential information for successful living and working in the Middle East. 23.75 inc. £2.00 from: Jay Press, 35 Brook Close, Surrey. East. 460000 (09307)

ZAMBIA: NDOLA
Junior and infant teachers for English, French, Kiswahili, Maths, Science, Art, Music, PE, and Physical Education. Good pay, free flat, flights, car loan. However, applications from employees of the GLC or MCCs will not be considered. Write to: Principal, 18 Gender, Greenwards Heath, Sussex. (05481) 460000

Administration
Local Education
Authority

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

NORTHERN AREA
Requires for September 1986, or sooner if possible, a qualified and experienced person for the post of:

TRAINING OFFICER

to work as a member of the multi-cultural education team to provide advice and support to educational and vocational needs of adults and young people from minority ethnic groups. This appointment forms part of a Cambridgehire's provision to improve its policy on multi-cultural education.

Possible housing assistance. Forms of application and further details (945) from the Senior Area Education Officer, Peterborough, PE1 9TH. Closing date: 30th December 1985. 460000 (93011)

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

ROYAL BOROUGH OF

DIRECTORATE OF

EDUCATION AND

RECREATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CAREERS SERVICE

NEEDS OFFICER (SPECIAL)

PAY SCALE £10,632/11,293 incl.

We are seeking a Careers Officer (Special Needs) to join the Schools and Further Education team of the Careers Service.

Candidates should be fully qualified and have experience in the field of careers advice and guidance.

Further details and description available from the Director of Education and Recreation, Kingston Council, Surrey KT1 1BU. Please quote reference: CO (Special). Closing date: 31st December 1985.

This post is exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Act 1968. However, applications from employees of the GLC or MCCs will not be considered. Write to: Principal, 18 Gender, Greenwards Heath, Sussex. (05481) 460000

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HAMPSHIRE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CAREERS SERVICE

ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL

CAREERS ADVISOR

(South West Hampshire)

P.O. Box 211, 604-£12,513

per annum

The South West Division of Hampshire Careers Service covers Southampton, Winchester, Bournemouth, and the New Forest. Main duties of the post are to:

develop and promote the work of the Careers Service within the

Youth Training Scheme, with employers, with the young unemployed and with the

employment and education liaison schemes. Computers are currently being introduced and the person appointed will be

involved in this programme. Other duties will include

working closely with the Divisional Careers Adviser in

managing five District Careers Offices, particularly with recruitment and training of staff.

Applicants must have a diploma in Careers Guidance or

equivalent qualification, and broad Careers Service experience and be able to use that

experience to help colleagues build further on current successful

practices. Generous relocation expenses are payable in approved cases.

Further details and an application form are available from the

Director of Education and Recreation, Hampshire County Council, Winchester SO23 8UG. (0962) 540000. Closing date: 30th December 1985. (02648) 460000

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Bedfordshire

A nuclear-free zone
Bedfordshire County Council is an
Equal Opportunity Employer

Social Services

Dually Qualified Social Worker for the Deaf
Salary £7,437 p.a. - £9,338 p.a.

Revolving position for entertaining manually handicapped Social Worker for the Deaf, within a small team offering a genuine social work service to the Deaf community in Bedfordshire. The team is currently based at Darnley Social Services in South Bedfordshire, however consideration is being given to the relocation and this position could be an interesting opportunity for a Social Worker for the Deaf to be involved in the development and planning of an innovative service to the Deaf community. Hence the need to recruit a professional, experienced in the needs of the profoundly prelingually deaf, who can bring to such a post stimulating ideas and creative expertise. The applicant should also be capable of functioning in a multi-disciplinary environment. Salary would normally be in the range up to Level III, however exceptional work would be rewarded. For an application form write on a postcard to Director of Social Services, County Hall, Bedford. Closing date 20 December 1985. (16138)

ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL continued

LONDON REGIONAL EXAMINING BOARD

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (NSC Scale 5: £7,993 - £8,687 plus £1,545 London weighting)

Applications are invited for the above post in the Mode 3 area, direct responsibility for a group of Mode 3 syllabuses and the servicing of some committees.

The post would be suitable for a mature person with organisational and administrative skills who possesses at least 5 years experience at a senior level in the public or private sector, preferably in education or related administration.

Applicants should have a good academic background and preferably should possess a suitable qualification. Further particulars and application forms to be obtained as soon as possible from the Director of the Examinations, London Regional Examining Board, 104 Wandsworth Road, London SW18 1LF (Tel: 01-870 21441; 01-870 21442).

23RD DECEMBER 1985

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16139

Educational Psychologists

SUNDERLAND BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Applications are invited for the appointment of an Educational Psychologist to work in the Educational Psychology Service, Sunderland. The post is a full-time position with the Sundry Agreement 9. Point 4 to the H.T. Group 210,569 - £14,979.

Applicants should possess a minimum of two years experience as a qualified teacher and a postgraduate qualification in educational psychology. The postholder will operate a system of flexible working hours.

Application forms and further details (as a) from the Director of Education, P.O. Box 101, Town Hall and Civic Centre, Sunderland S6 2DN, to be returned not later than 20th December 1985.

For further information contact Mr. D. White, Officer in Charge of Mr. Bromley, Head Teacher (Stevens 31634).

Application form from the Director of Social Services, County Hall, Herford (Herford 566340). Please quote ref. B.45. Closing date: 20th December, 1985. (16138)

Examiners

JOINT GCSE LEVEL/CE EXAMINATIONS

Applications are invited for the appointment of an Examiner in the Information Technology with Office Studies.

For the June 1986 examination, candidates should have qualifications, relevant teaching experience and examining experience at GCSE and/or GCE level. Duties of the Examiner will include the setting of questions, marking and the preparation of marking schemes and the Assistant Examiners and the Assistant Examiners.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the East Midlands Regional Examinations Board, Wood House, 104 Wandsworth Road, London SW18 1LF. Tel: 01-870 21441; 01-870 21442.

23RD DECEMBER 1985

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

(2 POSTS) Soudbury £10,659 - £14,979 p.a. (1985 pay award pending)

Required in the South East Essex area (team based at Hadleigh School Psychological Service Office).

Applications are invited from qualified teachers with classroom experience who have successfully completed a recognised course of professional training in educational psychology (applications will also be welcome from those who are currently completing their training).

Applicants should be enthusiastic and innovative psychologists able to work collaboratively with a team providing a consultative service to schools through regular school visits. A keen interest in in-service training and project work is essential.

Closing date: 20th December, 1985.

Generous relocation allowances are payable in approved cases. Application forms and further details available from (i.e.s.s. please) the County Education Officer (P.O. Box 47, Thredneedle House, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1LD. Telephone: 0246 267222, ext. 26281. (16127)

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DEVON

SKERN LODGE

Qualified instructor, drivers

Required for March 1986. Interviews by arrangement. R. A. T. Tel: 01452 35111. Apply to Mr. R. A. T. Tel: 01452 35111. Apply to Mr. R. A. T. Tel: 01452 35111.

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INSURANCE BROKING

We are an established insurance broker with specialist knowledge in the motor, marine, fire and general insurance fields. We are currently seeking to recruit a full-time, enthusiastic and motivated individual to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the sale and servicing of insurance policies to a wide range of clients. The postholder will be based in our offices in London and will be required to travel throughout the country. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in the insurance industry and will hold a relevant qualification. The postholder will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Applications should be sent to: The Insurance Broker, 104 Wandsworth Road, London SW18 1LF. Tel: 01-870 21441; 01-870 21442.

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LINCOLN DIOCESE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Full-time Work Adviser

A full-time post as Career Adviser, with responsibility for work with young people, and the provision of career advice and guidance to schools, colleges, and universities. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in the field of career advice and guidance and will hold a relevant qualification. The postholder will be based in the Lincoln Diocese and will be required to travel throughout the region. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Applications should be sent to: The Lincoln Diocese Board of Education and Training, 104 Wandsworth Road, London SW18 1LF. Tel: 01-870 21441; 01-870 21442.

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EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Salary: £13,850 - £14,979 H.T. Group 6.3 - 7.4

Required from 1st January 1986 or as soon as possible, to undertake an Educational Psychologist who is interested and qualified in the field of mental health to join the County team of Educational Psychologists who have largely generic responsibilities. This post is being established within the terms of the All-Wales Strategy for the improvement of Services for Mentally Handicapped Persons.

A full description of the duties of the post, which will include liaison within the Department of Social Services and the Area Health Authority, will be provided on application.

This post carries a casual car allowance and appropriate payments will be made for authorised journeys.

Application forms and further particulars from the Chief Executive Officer, Personnel Section, County Hall, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP44 2XH.

Closing date 19th December, 1985 (1678)

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T.V.E.I. - BUSINESS EDUCATION

Kingston upon Thames, TVEI Project, Kingsdown Curriculum Centre, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6HL. Tel: 01-390 8837 Project Co-ordinator: Mr. I. M. Harries BA, MEd

Required for Easter 1986 a Teacher for Business Education attached to the Central Project Team of the Kingston Technical and Vocational Education Initiative.

An experienced and well qualified candidate is sought to teach in the Borough's Project Schools and work with the Advisory Teacher to develop a broad integrated skills curriculum. The capacity to innovate, and the ability to work in a team are both important for this post.

Scale 4 post. London allowance £878.

Application forms and further details available from the Director of Education and Recreation, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1EU (SAE please) to be returned to the Project Co-ordinator at the Centre by Wednesday, 18 December 1985.

23RD DECEMBER 1985

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MADAME TUSSAUD'S PORTRAIT SCULPTOR

